AVENGELYNE

MAXIMUM PRESS

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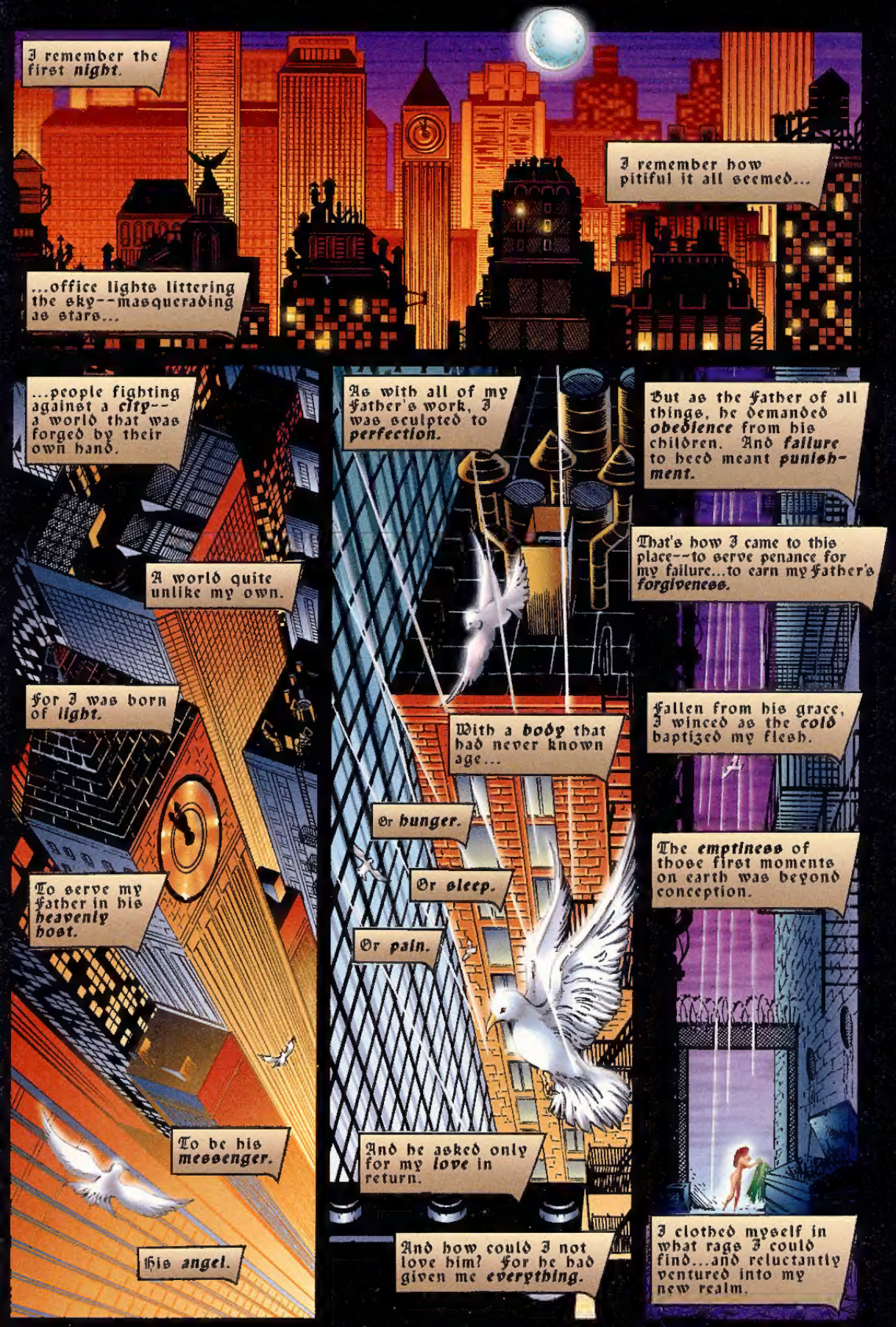
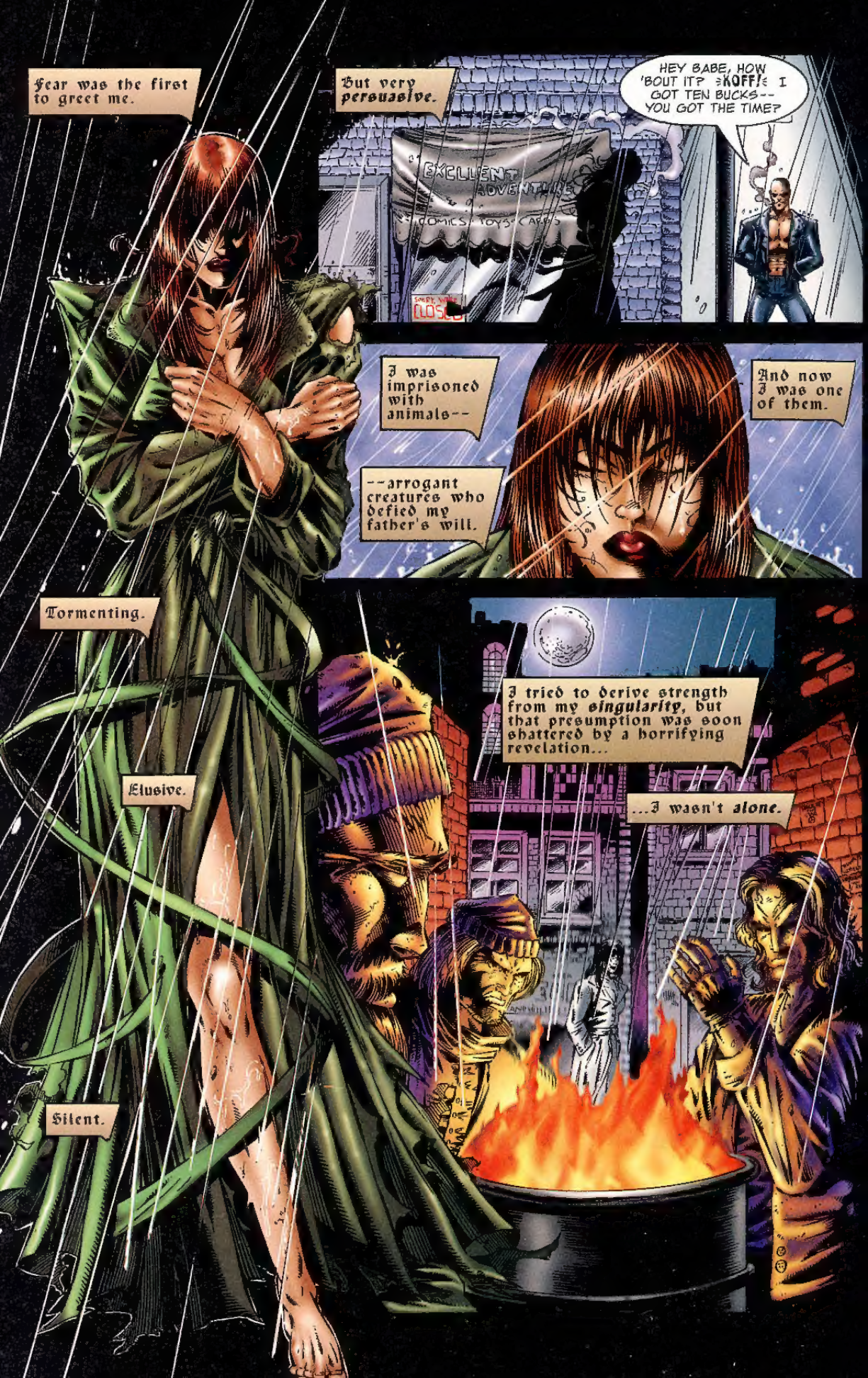
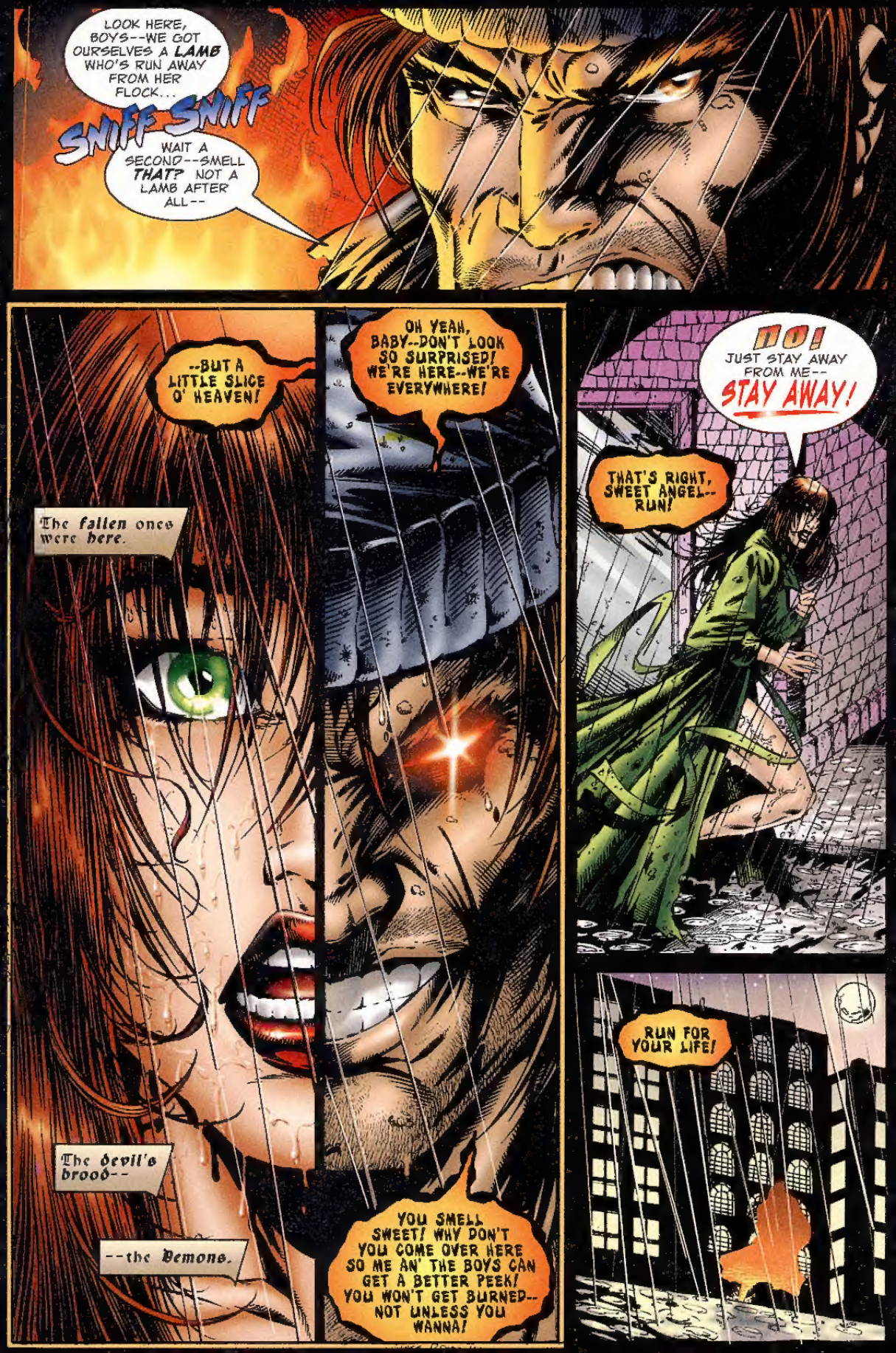
$3.50


I remember the first night.
I remember how pitiful it all seemed...
...office lights littering the sky--masquerading as stars...
...people fighting against a city--a world that was forged by their own hand.
A world quite unlike my own.
For I was born of light.
To serve my Father in his heavenly host.
To be his messenger.
His angel.
As with all of my Father's work, I was sculpted to perfection.
But as the Father of all things, he demanded obedience from his children. And failure to heed meant punishment.
That's how I came to this place--to serve penance for my failure...to earn my Father's forgiveness.
With a body that had never known age...
Or hunger.
Or sleep.
Or pain.
Fallen from his grace, I winced as the cold baptized my flesh.
The emptiness of those first moments on earth was beyond conception.
And he asked only for my love in return.
And how could I not love him? For he had given me everything.
I clothed myself in what rags I could find...and reluctantly ventured into my new realm.

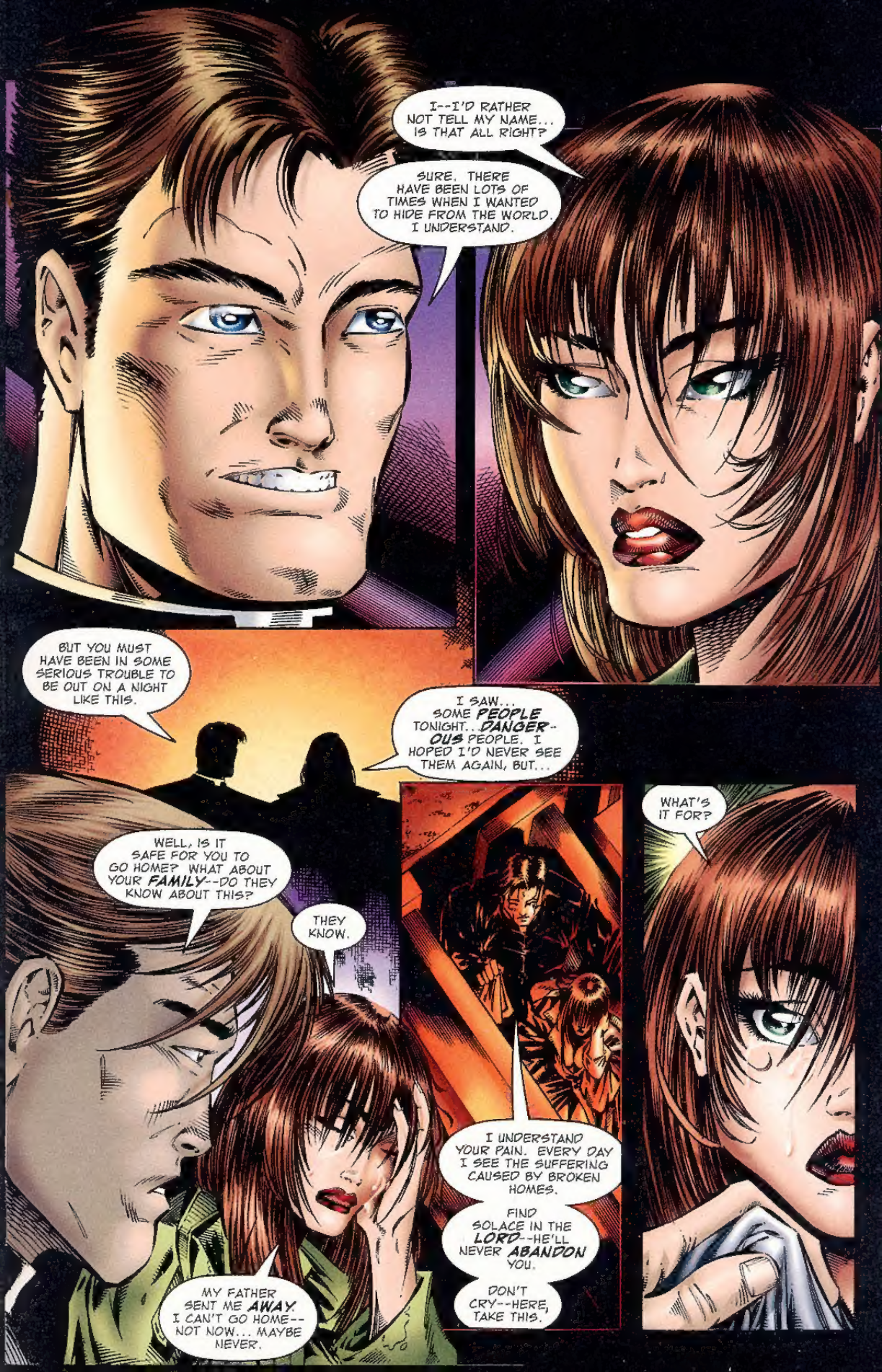

Fear was the first to greet me.
But very persuasive.
HEY BABE, HOW 'BOUT IT? >KOFF!< I GOT TEN BUCKS-- YOU GOT THE TIME?
EXCELLENT ADVENTURE
COMICS TOYS CARDS
CLOSED
I was imprisoned with animals--
--arrogant creatures who defied my father's will.
And now I was one of them.
Tormenting.
Elusive.
Silent.
I tried to derive strength from my singularity, but that presumption was soon shattered by a horrifying revelation...
...I wasn't alone.


LOOK HERE, BOYS--WE GOT OURSELVES A LAMB WHO'S RUN AWAY FROM HER FLOCK...
SNIFF SNIFF
WAIT A SECOND--SMELL THAT? NOT A LAMB AFTER ALL--
--BUT A LITTLE SLICE O' HEAVEN!
OH YEAH, BABY--DON'T LOOK SO SURPRISED! WE'RE HERE--WE'RE EVERYWHERE!
The fallen ones were here.
The devil's brood--
--the demons.
YOU SMELL SWEET! WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER HERE SO ME AN' THE BOYS CAN GET A BETTER PEEK! YOU WON'T GET BURNED--NOT UNLESS YOU WANNA!
NO! JUST STAY AWAY FROM ME-- STAY AWAY!
THAT'S RIGHT, SWEET ANGEL--RUN!
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!

So I ran.
Until my human shell forced me to relent.
Depleted of strength--I began to feel a strange euphoria...
Was it the exhaustion that made me stop there...
...or was father still watching over me?
STOP
At that moment, as I gazed upward, the wind surged and a thunderous bell resonated throughout the edifice.
Like the trumpets of heaven, the sound stirred my being.

I had found my sanctuary--
--a beautiful mansion within my father's house.
Tiny flames danced in the distance.
Pure.
Forgiving.
As I neared the candles--I felt warmth...for the very first time.
I had found peace...
...Or had I?
NOOOOOO!

MISS? MISS--WAKE UP.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? MISS?!
THAT'S BETTER.
WHA--WHAT HAPPENED?
WELL, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, YOU UNLEASHED ONE OF THE MOST BLOOD CURDLING SCREAMS I'VE EVER HEARD AND THEN YOU FAINTED
KIDS, DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME.
SEE, THAT WAS A LITTLE JOKE--IT WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.
WELL, HOW ABOUT I JUST HELP YOU UP AND WE'LL FORGET MY ATTEMPT AT HUMOR.
I'M PETER CLIFTON-- WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MISS?


I--I'D RATHER NOT TELL MY NAME... IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
SURE. THERE HAVE BEEN LOTS OF TIMES WHEN I WANTED TO HIDE FROM THE WORLD. I UNDERSTAND.
BUT YOU MUST HAVE BEEN IN SOME SERIOUS TROUBLE TO BE OUT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS.
I SAW... SOME PEOPLE TONIGHT.. DANGER-OUS PEOPLE. I HOPED I'D NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN, BUT...
WELL, IS IT SAFE FOR YOU TO GO HOME? WHAT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY--DO THEY KNOW ABOUT THIS?
THEY KNOW.
MY FATHER SENT ME AWAY. I CAN'T GO HOME-- NOT NOW... MAYBE NEVER.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR PAIN. EVERY DAY I SEE THE SUFFERING CAUSED BY BROKEN HOMES.
FIND SOLACE IN THE LORD--HE'LL NEVER ABANDON YOU.
DON'T CRY--HERE, TAKE THIS.
WHAT'S IT FOR?

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A HANDKERCHIEF BEFORE? NO WONDER YOU DIDN'T LAUGH AT MY JOKE. ALLOW ME.
I...I, UH...
...YOUR BURDEN...IS PROFOUND. I KNOW THIS SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT...I CAN FEEL IT.
ALL YOUR LIFE YOU'VE BROUGHT COMFORT TO OTHERS... BUT NO ONE HAS EVER COMFORTED YOU. THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT?
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LOVED--
--BUT NO ONE HAS EVER COMFORTED ME IN THIS WAY...
...NO ONE BUT YOU, PETER.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
HUH?!
FATHER MALORY!
I WAS JUST COMING TO GET YOU. THIS IS-- WELL, SH-SHE...IT'S A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN...
WHY DON'T YOU START AT THE BEGINNING, PETER. THAT WOULD SUFFICE.
OF COURSE, FATHER. WELL, I FOUND HER UNCONSCIOUS NEAR THE ALTAR. LOOKS LIKE SHE FAINTED.

ANYWAY--SHE'S APPARENTLY IN TROUBLE WITH SOME VERY DANGEROUS PEOPLE--SHE CAN'T GO HOME.

I SEE. WELL, I DOUBT THEY CAN FIND ROOM FOR HER AT THE MISSION. NOT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS.

PERHAPS SHE COULD STAY UP-STAIRS--JUST FOR TONIGHT.

IT'S NOT OUR USUAL PRACTICE, BUT THIS IS A NIGHT FOR EXCEPTIONS.

COME, MY CHILD. I'LL TAKE YOU TO A PLACE WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE.

I CAN NEVER REPAY YOUR KINDNESS.

I'LL HAVE ***SISTER JANICE*** FIND YOU SOMETHING TO WEAR. THERE'S PLENTY OF OLD CLOTHES IN THE BASEMENT.

SHORTLY...

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME IN YOUR CITY. IT IS SO... ***TASKING.***

THAT'S NEW YORK CITY FOR YOU. GET SOME SLEEP. WE'LL TALK AGAIN IN THE MORNING.

SURE YOU WON'T TELL ME YOUR NAME?

MAYBE TOMORROW... PLEASE.

OKAY--OKAY, TOMORROW. HAVE PLEASANT DREAMS--

"--WHOEVER YOU ARE."

AVENGELYNE

AVENGELYNE

It's a dream.

Just a dream.

I see myself as I was--at the gates of *pandemonium*--the fortress of hell.

My countenance has changed, but not my purpose.

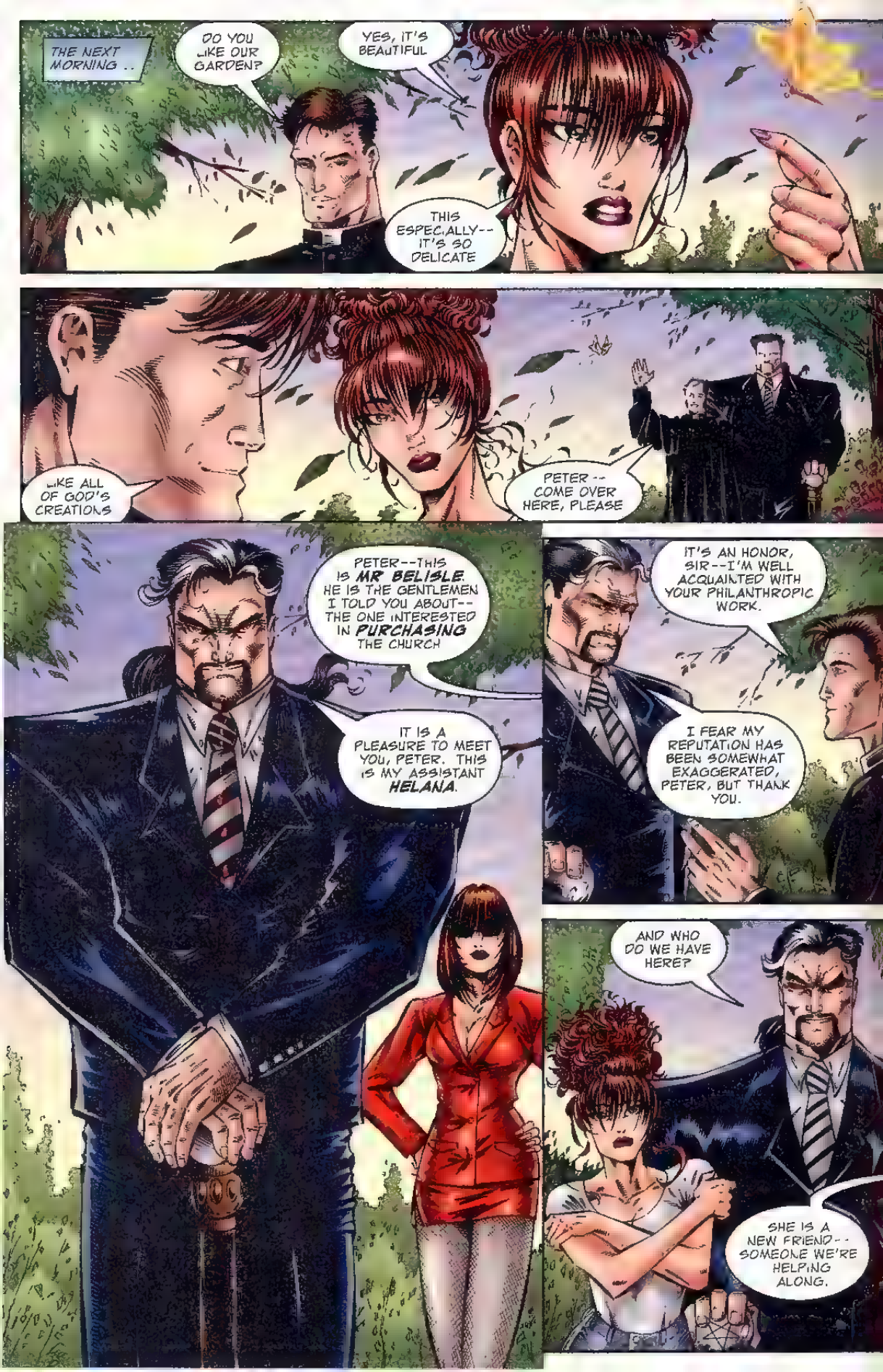
I'm still slaying demons in my father's name.

And they keep coming and coming--

--It will never end.

KRAKA-BOOOM!

Never.


THE NEXT MORNING ..
DO YOU LIKE OUR GARDEN?
YES, IT'S BEAUTIFUL
THIS ESPECIALLY-- IT'S SO DELICATE
LIKE ALL OF GOD'S CREATIONS
PETER -- COME OVER HERE, PLEASE
PETER--THIS IS MR BELISLE. HE IS THE GENTLEMEN I TOLD YOU ABOUT-- THE ONE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING THE CHURCH
IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, PETER. THIS IS MY ASSISTANT HELANA.
IT'S AN HONOR, SIR--I'M WELL ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR PHILANTHROPIC WORK.
I FEAR MY REPUTATION HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED, PETER, BUT THANK YOU.
AND WHO DO WE HAVE HERE?
SHE IS A NEW FRIEND-- SOMEONE WE'RE HELPING ALONG.

I SEE--AND WHAT IS YOUR NAME, YOUNG LADY?
WELL, WE'D, Uh. .BETTER GO. AGAIN, IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE, SIR.
THE PLEASURE HAS BEEN ALL MINE.
WHAT A CURIOUS YOUNG LADY
I APOLOGIZE, MR BELISLE. THE GIRL IS SOMEWHAT... RESERVED.
SHE CAME TO US LAST NIGHT SEEKING SHELTER. WE HOUSED HER, BUT SO FAR SHE HASN'T EVEN TOLD US HER NAME. I FEAR SHE'S SOMETHING OF A MYSTERY
INDEED SHE IS, FATHER MALORY INDEED SHE IS.

AVENGELYNE?
NO, YOU MISUNDERSTAND, NOT WHAT YOUR STREET FRIENDS CALL YOU--YOUR REAL NAME.
IT IS THE NAME MY FATHER GAVE ME.
WELL... THEN...AVENGELYNE IT IS. WHO AM I TO DISPUTE YOUR FATHER--RIGHT?
AFTER BREAKFAST, WE'LL CHECK SOME OF THE LOCAL MISSIONS AND TRY TO FIND YOU A BED FOR THE NIGHT.
BUT, I THOUGHT I COULD STAY WITH YOU AND FATHER MALORY?!
WELL, THAT'S DIFFICULT...
...WE REALLY DON'T HAVE THE FACILITIES...
LOOK, DON'T GET UPSET. I HAVE AN IDEA. IF YOU'RE WILLING TO WORK--
--SISTER JANICE MIGHT HOUSE YOU AT THE CONVENT.
JUST UNTIL WE CAN FIND SOMETHING PERMANENT.
I CAN WORK--I KNOW I CAN WORK THAT'S A WONDERFUL IDEA, PETER!

MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE BELISLE TOWERS

LORD B'LIALE--THAT WOMAN AT ST. AUGUSTINE WAS OF THE WARHOST!

SHE'S A MENACE--WE SHOULD DESTROY HER NOW!

STAY YOUR HAND, H'LANA!

THE FOOLS WHO INHABIT THIS WORLD ARE BLIND TO OUR TRUE NATURE... THIS GIRL POSES NO GREAT THREAT...

IF SHE IS TRULY OF THE WARHOST THEN HER PRESENCE MAY SERVE US WELL.

WE MUST TEST THIS GIRL AND SEE IF SHE IS TRULY A FALLEN ANGEL...

LET ME HAVE THE BITCH!

NO, BELOVED--YOU WOULD SIMPLY DESTROY HER AND WE WOULD LEARN NOTHING. NO, THIS IS A TASK FOR MY PROGENY. BUT YOUR CHANCE WILL COME, H'LANA...THIS I VOW.

WHEN WILL THE ARRANGEMENTS BE FINALIZED?

IN TWO DAYS MR. BELISLE WILL PURCHASE ST. AUGUSTINE. IT'S EITHER THAT OR THE DOORS GET BOARDED SHUT...

...I REALLY DON'T SEE ANOTHER WAY.

WELL, IF SOMEONE IS MEANT TO BUY OUR CHURCH--I'M GLAD IT'S A MAN OF GOD LIKE MR. BELISLE.

WHAT ABOUT AVENGELYNE?

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, PETER, DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS ALL RATHER SUDDEN. I ADMIT THE CHILD NEEDS HELP, BUT TO HAVE HER MOVE INTO THE CONVENT AFTER ONLY KNOWING HER FOR A SINGLE DAY?

I SPOKE TO SISTER JANICE AND SHE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING THE EXTRA HELP

I REALLY DON'T SEE THE PROBLEM

THERE ISN'T ONE--AS ***YET***. YOU'RE A GOOD JUDGE OF CHARACTER, PETER, BUT YOUR DESIRE TO DO GOD'S WORK OCCASIONALLY GETS THE BETTER OF YOU. I SIMPLY WANT YOU TO BE CAREFUL--WE KNOW SO VERY LITTLE ABOUT THIS GIRL.

I UNDERSTAND, SIR. I'LL HAVE ANOTHER TALK WITH HER--WHEN SHE GETS BACK FROM HER WALK...

THAT MAN IN THE GARDEN TODAY--THERE WAS A DARKNESS ABOUT HIM...*HUH?*

SUCH FLATTERY--

YES, IT'S ME--JUST FOLLOW THE SOUND OF MY VOICE!

WE HAVE MUCH TO TALK ABOUT YOU AND I--

BUT FIRST--

--I MUST CHECK YOUR CREDENTIALS!

COME ON, GIRL--

--TIME TO PLAY!

THAT HEAD IS GONNA MAKE A NICE TROPHY, WARHOST--

YOU COULDN'T BEAT ME IN *YOUR* HELL, DEMON--

--WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'LL BEAT ME IN THIS ONE?!

KLANG!

BUT I WILL NEED--

--A SWORD!

NO!

FWHZ

TT

EVEN WITHOUT MY GIFTS--
--YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR AN ANGEL!
VERY WELL DONE, INDEED. NOW-- WE HAVE BUSINESS TO DISCUSS. MEET ME ON THE STREET. I'M IN THE LIMOUSINE.
YOU WON'T NEED THAT--
--I ASSURE YOU, I'M HARMLESS.

IN HERE... QUICKLY--I HAVE MANY APPOINT-MENTS TODAY.
WELCOME... MISS?
AVENGELYNE
PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE. THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.
THE LEGENDARY AVENGELYNE. SO WHAT HEINOUS CRIME DID YOU COMMIT TO WARRANT EXILE ON EARTH?
NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS
AS YOU WISH. YOU'RE HERE--AND I KNOW A GOOD DEAL ABOUT YOU ALREADY--AT LEAST BY REPUTATION. YOU WERE THE MOST FEARED OF THE WARHOST. AND NOW--YOU'RE TIRED...UNCERTAIN...AND VERY MORTAL. YOU CAN BE HURT--IN WAYS YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY IMAGINE. FRIGHTENING, ISN'T IT?
I KNOW BECAUSE I WAS ONCE LIKE YOU--A FALLEN ANGEL. BUT I HAD NO INTENTION OF BEING PUN-ISHED WHILE OUR FATHER COWERED IN HEAVEN. SO ONE DAY I TOOK AN OFFER I COULDN'T REFUSE--TO HAVE PERFECTION ONCE MORE.
NOW I MAKE THAT SAME OFFER TO YOU, AVENGELYNE.

I'M NOT INTER-ESTED
I EXPECTED AS MUCH, BUT IT WAS A NECESSARY FIRST STEP TO ASK.
STOP HERE.
I HAD HIM BRING YOU BACK TO ST. AUGUSTINE-- I'LL OWN IT SOON, YOU KNOW--
"--JUST LIKE I'LL OWN YOU."
NEXT ISSUE: AVENGELYNE VS. H'LANA!

ROB LIEFELD AND CATHY CHRISTIAN

ROB LIEFELD

SCRIPT
ROBERT NAPTON

PENCILER
JOHN STINSMAN

INKERS
JONATHAN SIBAL
DANNY MIKI

ROBERT HEDDON

COLORS
NATHAN LUMM

[illegible]RATIONS
EXTREME COLORS

LETTERING
KURT HATHAWAY

EDITOR
MATT HAWKINS

AVENGELYNE IS BASED ON THE LIKENESS OF CATHY CHRISTIAN!

PUBLISHER
ROB LIEFELD
BUSINESS MANAGER
CHERI LIEFELD
PROMOTIONS & MARKETING
PAUL SCOTT

EXTREME COLOR IS
DONALD SKINNER • ANDRE KHROMOV
RON RIFE • BRENDA CONNELLY
[illegible]
JEFF VOELTNER • KENDRA COLLIE
[illegible]
DREW • ALEX

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AVENGELYNE
MAXIMUM
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THANKS CHUCK

AVENGELYNE

AVENGELYNE CREATED BY
ROB LIEFELD
CATHY CHRISTIAN
STORY
ROB LIEFELD
ROBERT NAPTON
SCRIPT
ROBERT NAPTON
PENCILER
JOHN STINSMAN
INKERS
JONATHAN SIBAL
DANNY MIKI
MARLO ALQUIZA
INK ASSISTS
ROBERT HEDDEN
COLORS
NATHAN LUMM
COLOR SEPARATIONS
EXTREME COLORS
LETTERING
KURT HATHAWAY
EDITOR
MATT HAWKINS

The Story So Far:

Avengelyne is an angel who has been sent to earth as punishment for her sins. Once a member of God's army of light, Avengelyne must now deal with the consequences of being mortal as she explores the dangers of life as a human.

After arriving in New York City, Avengelyne was shocked to find that there were others like her-angels who had fallen from God's grace. But these angels had joined with Lucifer and roam the earth as powerful demons.

Fearing for her own life, Avengelyne sought refuge in the St. Augustine church and met a young priest named Peter. Without knowing that she was an angel, Peter and Father Malory gave her shelter for the night.

The next day Avengelyne met Mr. Belisle, a philanthropist who was preparing to buy the church. Unknown to anyone but Avengelyne, Belisle himself was a demon lord. To test Avengelyne, Belisle commanded his demons to attack her. After successfully defeating them, Belisle returned Avengelyne to the church...

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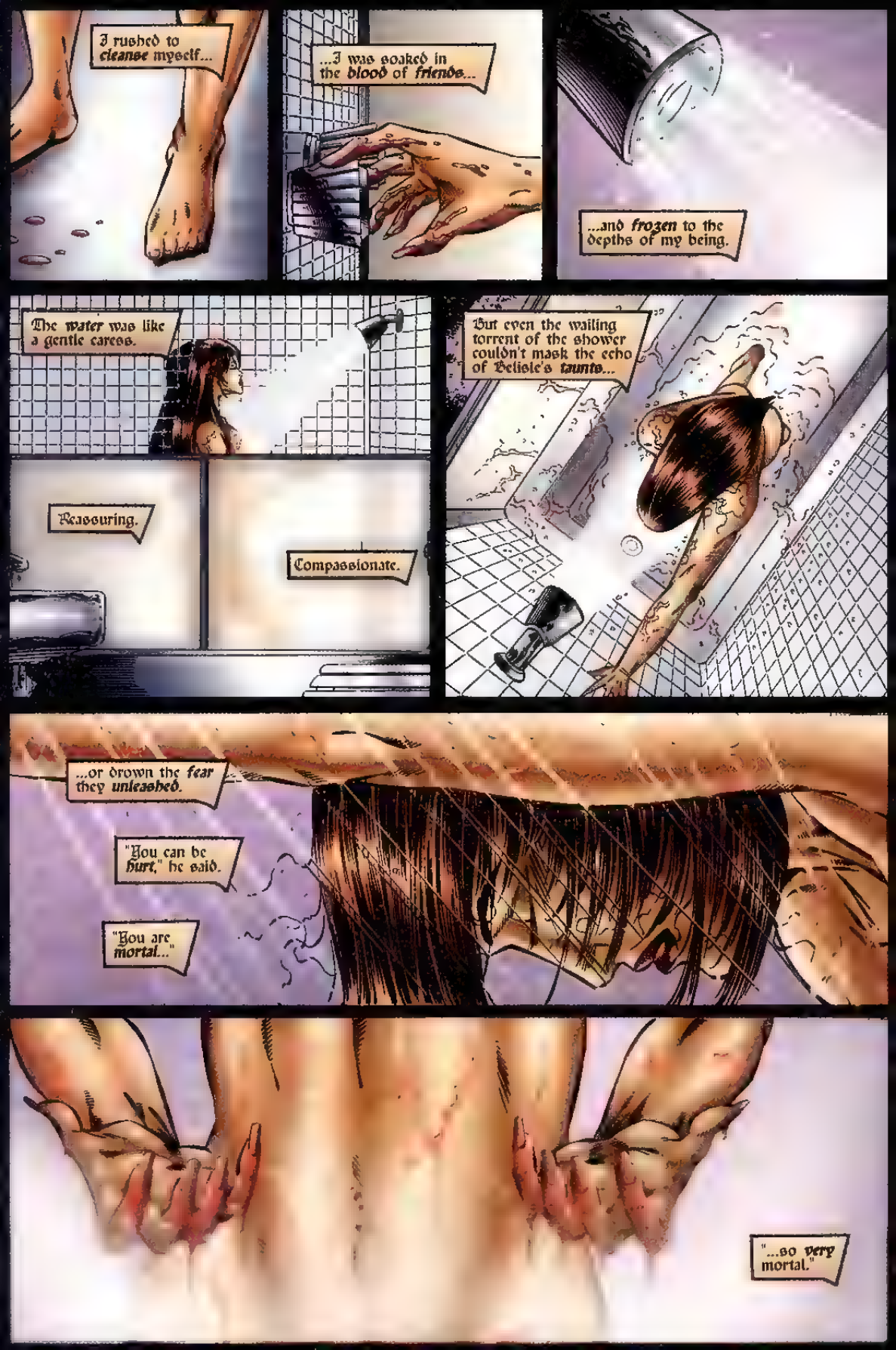
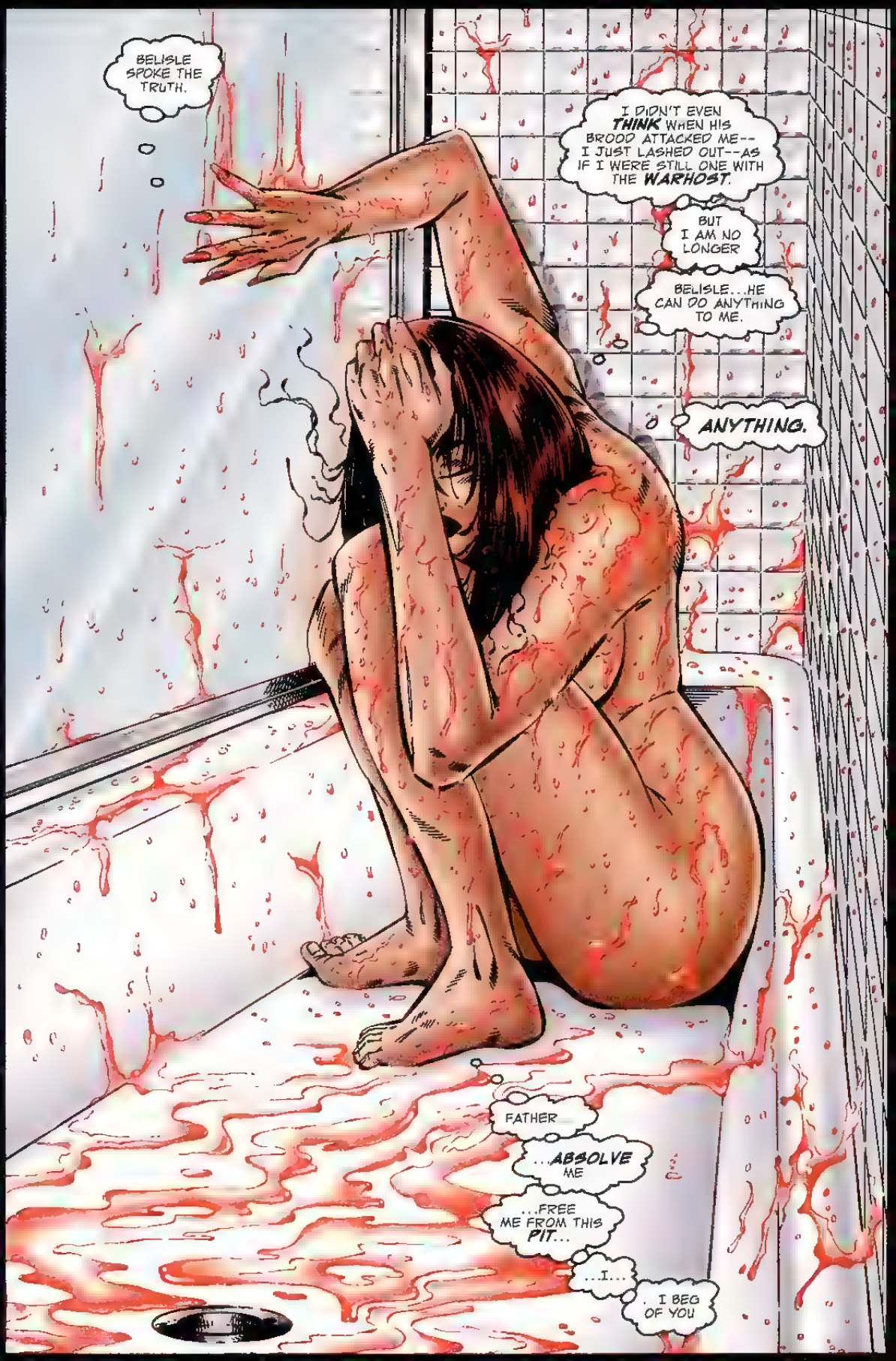
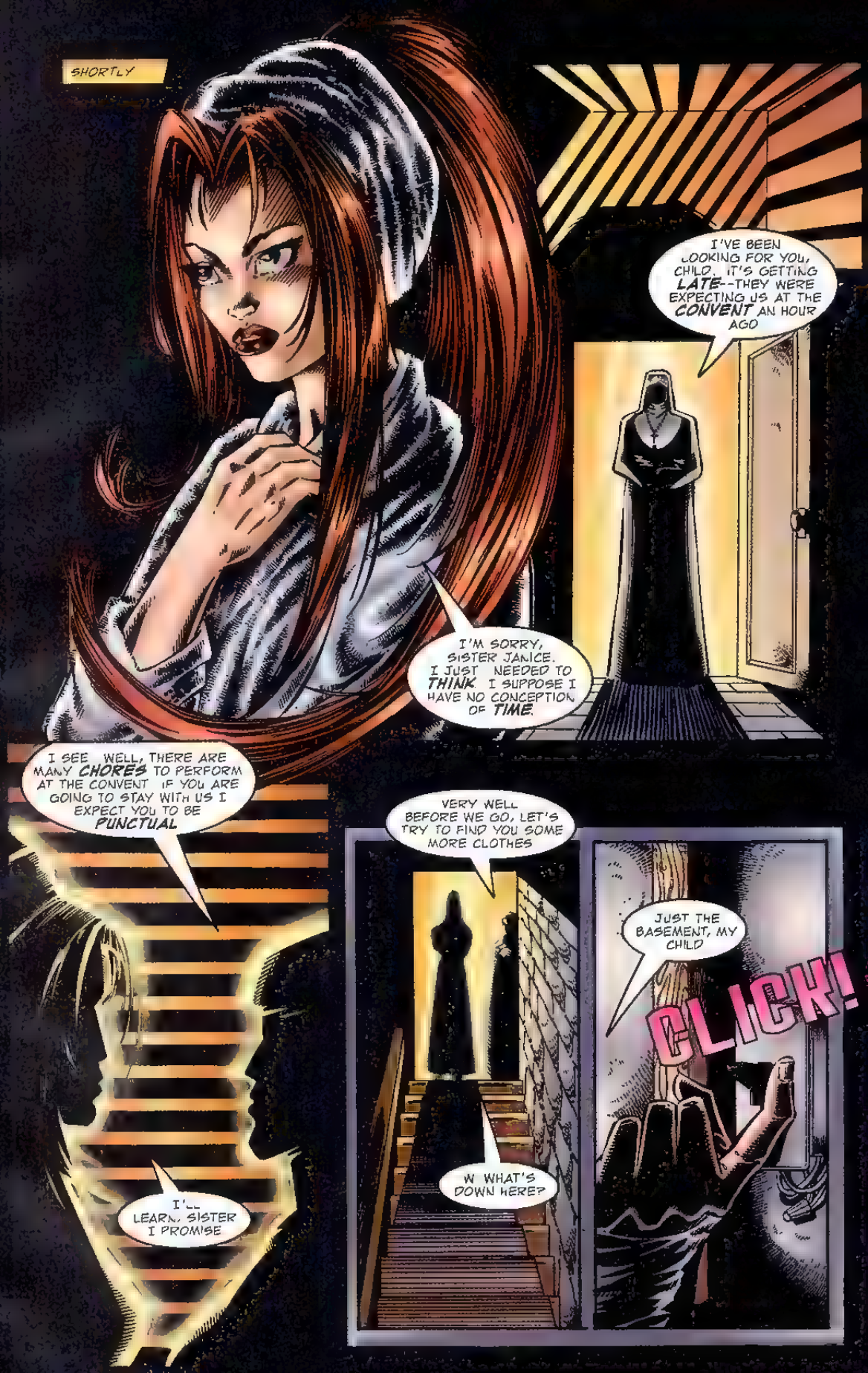
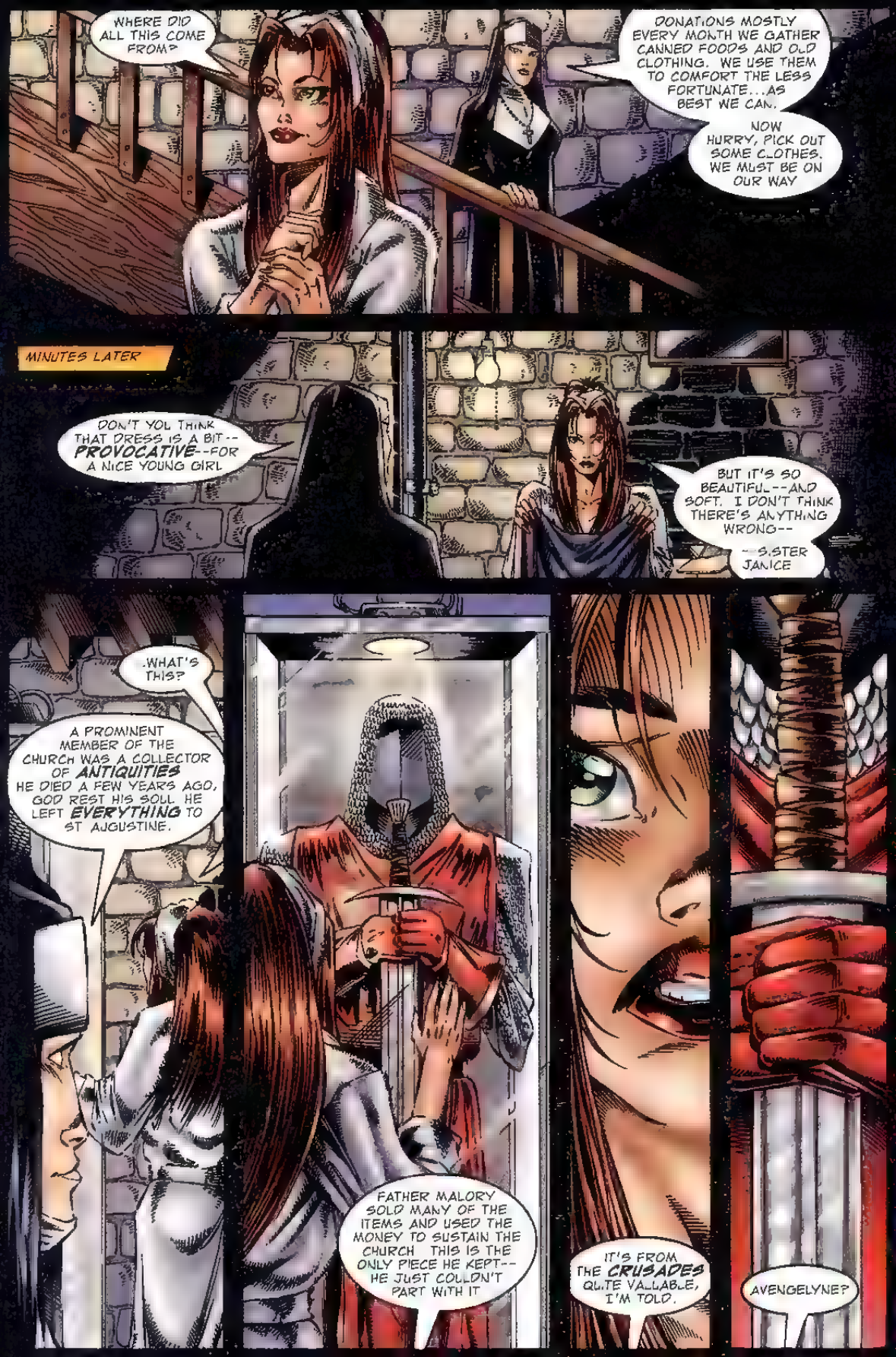
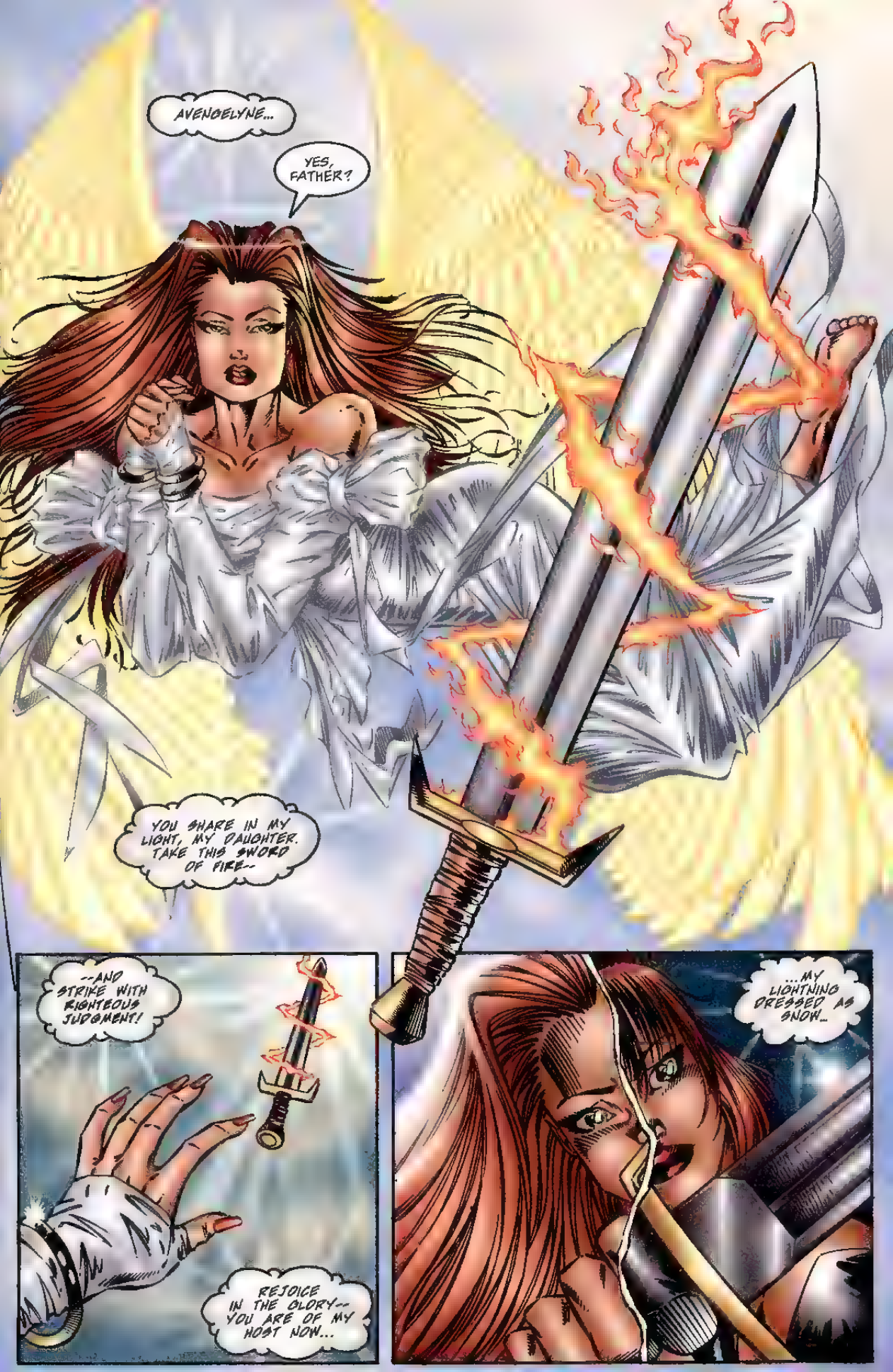

I rushed to cleanse myself...
...I was soaked in the blood of friends...
...and frozen to the depths of my being.
The water was like a gentle caress.
Reassuring.
Compassionate.
But even the wailing torrent of the shower couldn't mask the echo of Belisle's taunts...
...or drown the fear they unleashed.
"You can be hurt," he said.
"You are mortal..."
"...so very mortal."


BELISLE SPOKE THE TRUTH.
I DIDN'T EVEN THINK WHEN HIS BROOD ATTACKED ME-- I JUST LASHED OUT--AS IF I WERE STILL ONE WITH THE WARHOST.
BUT I AM NO LONGER
BELISLE...HE CAN DO ANYTHING TO ME.
ANYTHING.
FATHER
...ABSOLVE ME
...FREE ME FROM THIS PIT...
...I...
. I BEG OF YOU

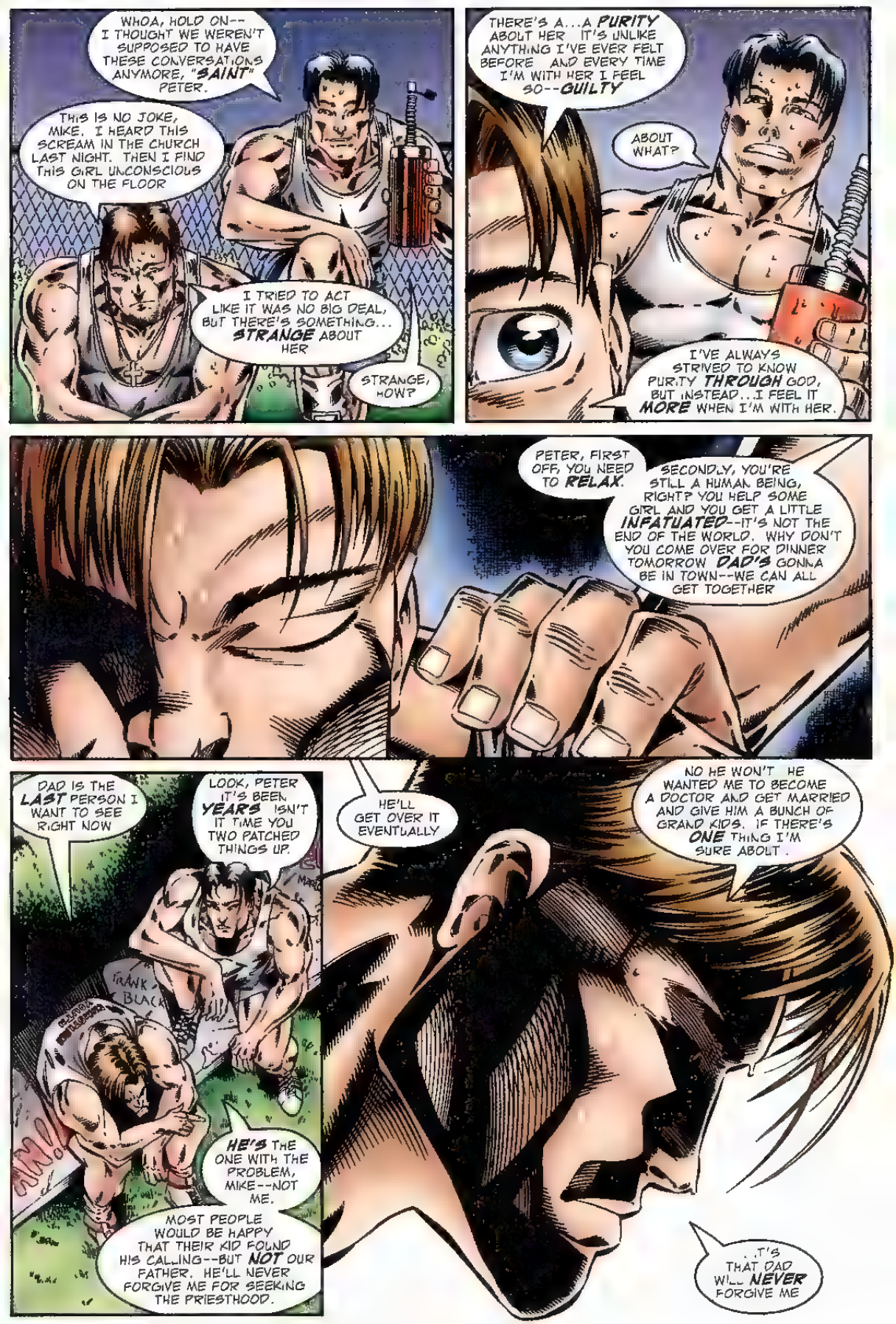

SHORTLY
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, CHILD. IT'S GETTING LATE--THEY WERE EXPECTING US AT THE CONVENT AN HOUR AGO
I'M SORRY, SISTER JANICE. I JUST NEEDED TO THINK. I SUPPOSE I HAVE NO CONCEPTION OF TIME.
I SEE. WELL, THERE ARE MANY CHORES TO PERFORM AT THE CONVENT. IF YOU ARE GOING TO STAY WITH US I EXPECT YOU TO BE PUNCTUAL.
I'LL LEARN, SISTER. I PROMISE.
VERY WELL. BEFORE WE GO, LET'S TRY TO FIND YOU SOME MORE CLOTHES.
W- WHAT'S DOWN HERE?
JUST THE BASEMENT, MY CHILD.
CLICK!


WHERE DID ALL THIS COME FROM?
DONATIONS MOSTLY EVERY MONTH WE GATHER CANNED FOODS AND OLD CLOTHING. WE USE THEM TO COMFORT THE LESS FORTUNATE...AS BEST WE CAN.
NOW HURRY, PICK OUT SOME CLOTHES. WE MUST BE ON OUR WAY
MINUTES LATER
DON'T YOU THINK THAT DRESS IS A BIT-- PROVOCATIVE--FOR A NICE YOUNG GIRL
BUT IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL--AND SOFT. I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG--
--SISTER JANICE
.WHAT'S THIS?
A PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE CHURCH WAS A COLLECTOR OF ANTIQUITIES HE DIED A FEW YEARS AGO, GOD REST HIS SOUL HE LEFT EVERYTHING TO ST AUGUSTINE.
FATHER MALORY SOLD MANY OF THE ITEMS AND USED THE MONEY TO SUSTAIN THE CHURCH THIS IS THE ONLY PIECE HE KEPT-- HE JUST COULDN'T PART WITH IT
IT'S FROM THE CRUSADES QUITE VALUABLE, I'M TOLD.
AVENGELYNE?

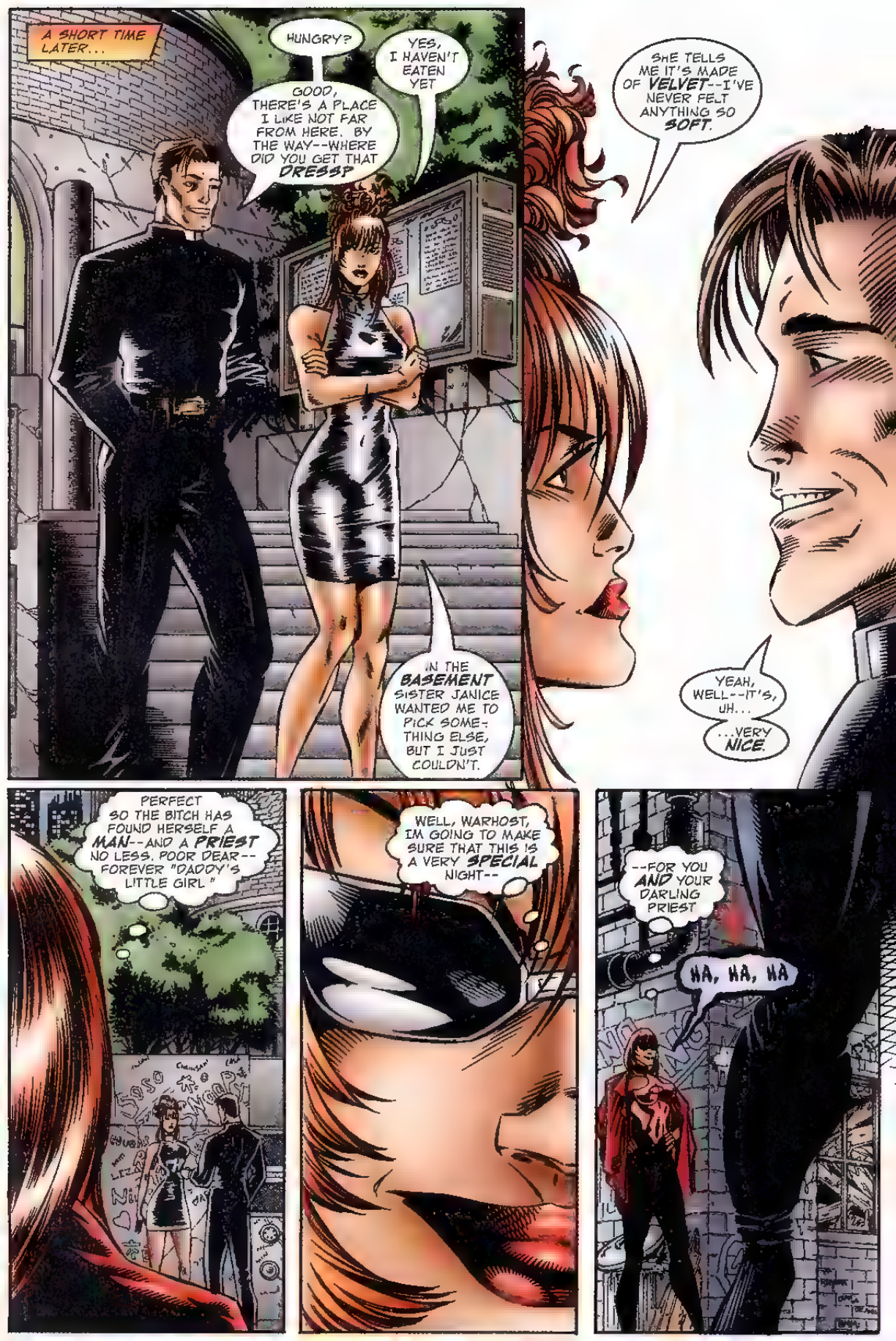

AVENGELYNE...
YES, FATHER?
YOU SHARE IN MY LIGHT, MY DAUGHTER. TAKE THIS SWORD OF FIRE--
--AND STRIKE WITH RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT!
REJOICE IN THE GLORY-- YOU ARE OF MY HOST NOW...
...MY LIGHTNING DRESSED AS SNOW...

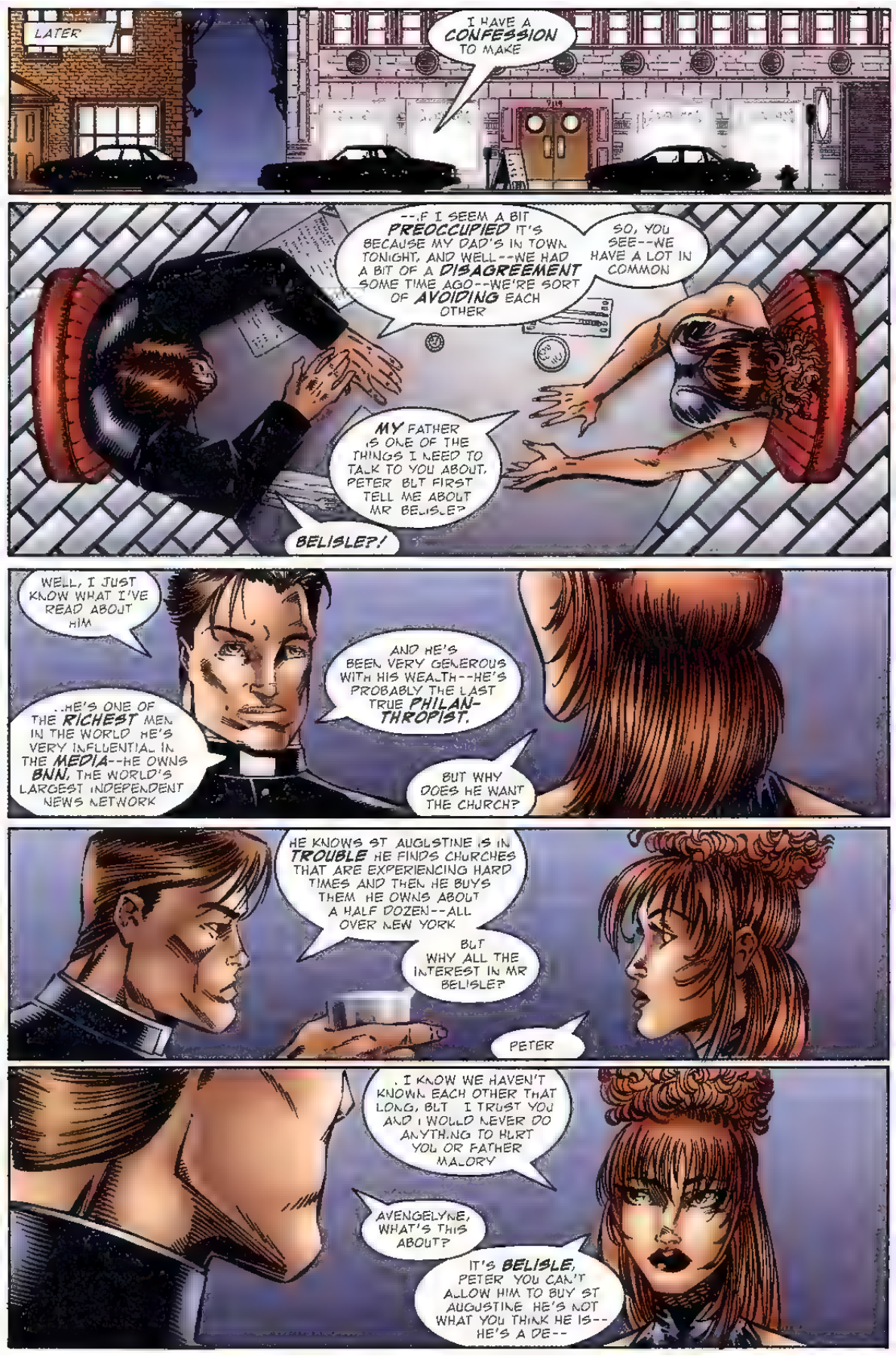
AVENGELYNE?! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! AVENGELYNE?!
HUH?!
OH, PETER-- I-I'M SORRY-- I WAS .
I WAS JUST.. REMEMBERING.
SISTER JANICE RAN AND GOT ME--SHE SAID YOU WOULDN'T RESPOND-- LIKE YOU WENT INTO SOME KIND OF TRANCE
I KNOW-- IT'S D FFICULT TO EXPLAIN. PETER, WE MUST TALK--THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ME--
--IMPORTANT THINGS.
LOOK, YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT IN THE LAST 24 HOURS. GO WITH SISTER JANICE SHE'LL BRING YOU BACK TOMORROW AND WE'LL GRAB A BITE AND TALK THEN, OKAY?
DEEP WITHIN B'LIALE'S SANCTUM
YOU READ HER SCENT WELL, BELOVED. SHE IS AVENGELYNE--A WARHOST--OR AT LEAST SHE WAS.
SHE EARNED SOMETHING OF A REPUTATION LONG AGO BY STORMING THE GATES OF PANDEMONIUM--ALONE. ONCE INSIDE THE CITADEL SHE SLEW A THOUSAND OF OUR KIND, AND ALL BUT REACHED THE DRAGON'S HEART.
WHY DID SHE PENETRATE HELL WITHOUT HER HOST?!
PERHAPS TO WIN DADDY'S FAVOR. SHE WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST.
AND NOW THE BITCH CAN BLEED LIKE ANY OTHER HUMAN.
I'M BEGGING YOU, MY LORD, AS YOUR CONSORT--ALLOW ME THIS HONOR. LET ME BRING YOU HER CORPSE--
--SO HER HEAD CAN ADORN OUR BED CHAMBER--TO AMUSE US AS WE COUPLE!
YOU TEMPT ME BELOVED, BUT I THINK NOT. HER SOUL IS THE TRUE PRIZE. GO TO HER. CONVINCE HER TO JOIN US. BE FIRM.
LET HER FEEL THE WARMTH OF HER OWN BLOOD AS IT ABANDONS HER--JUST LIKE HER FATHER HAS ABANDONED HER! THEN SHE'LL ACCEPT OUR OFFER.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, LITTLE BROTHER--TAKE THE SHOT!
HA, HA--NOW THAT WAS A BRICK IF I EVER SAW ONE! FEELING THE PRESSURE, PETE?! ONE MORE BUCKET AND I WIN!
IN YOUR DREAMS, MIKE.
HEY!
WHERE'S THE DEFENSE, BRO?! HE SHOOTS--
--OH, NOTHING BUT NET!
AND THE CROWD GOES WILD AS MICHAEL CLIFTON GIVES ANOTHER CLINIC IN THE ART OF ONE-ON-ONE HOOP DREAMS!
THE CROWD YOU'RE HEARING IS ALL THOSE VOICES IN YOUR HEAD, PSYCHO.
BUT I GUESS YOU SHOULD SAVOR THE VICTORY. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE WON IN HOW LONG--TWO MONTHS?
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. I ADMIT IT--YOUR GAME'S OFF TONIGHT. SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, LITTLE BROTHER?
SERIOUSLY, MIKE? I MET THIS GIRL--


WHOA, HOLD ON--I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO HAVE THESE CONVERSATIONS ANYMORE, "SAINT" PETER.
THIS IS NO JOKE, MIKE. I HEARD THIS SCREAM IN THE CHURCH LAST NIGHT. THEN I FIND THIS GIRL UNCONSCIOUS ON THE FLOOR
I TRIED TO ACT LIKE IT WAS NO BIG DEAL, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING... STRANGE ABOUT HER
STRANGE, HOW?
THERE'S A...A PURITY ABOUT HER IT'S UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER FELT BEFORE AND EVERY TIME I'M WITH HER I FEEL SO--GUILTY
ABOUT WHAT?
I'VE ALWAYS STRIVED TO KNOW PURITY THROUGH GOD, BUT INSTEAD..I FEEL IT MORE WHEN I'M WITH HER.
PETER, FIRST OFF, YOU NEED TO RELAX.
SECONDLY, YOU'RE STILL A HUMAN BEING, RIGHT? YOU HELP SOME GIRL AND YOU GET A LITTLE INFATUATED--IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD. WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER FOR DINNER TOMORROW DAD'S GONNA BE IN TOWN--WE CAN ALL GET TOGETHER
DAD IS THE LAST PERSON I WANT TO SEE RIGHT NOW
LOOK, PETER IT'S BEEN YEARS ISN'T IT TIME YOU TWO PATCHED THINGS UP.
HE'S THE ONE WITH THE PROBLEM, MIKE--NOT ME.
MOST PEOPLE WOULD BE HAPPY THAT THEIR KID FOUND HIS CALLING--BUT NOT OUR FATHER. HE'LL NEVER FORGIVE ME FOR SEEKING THE PRIESTHOOD.
HE'LL GET OVER IT EVENTUALLY
NO HE WON'T HE WANTED ME TO BECOME A DOCTOR AND GET MARRIED AND GIVE HIM A BUNCH OF GRAND KIDS. IF THERE'S ONE THING I'M SURE ABOUT.
..IT'S THAT DAD WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME

ST AUGUSTINE THE NEXT DAY
WELL, PETER--TOMORROW THE CHURCH WILL BELONG TO MR. BELISLE.
ARE YOU EXPECTING MEDIA COVERAGE--LIKE WHEN HE BOUGHT THE OTHER CHURCHES?
MR. BELISLE TENDS TO TRAVEL WITH A RATHER HIGH PROFILE BUT FRANKLY, HE'S EARNED THE PRAISE--HE'S SAVED A HALF A DOZEN CHURCHES FROM CLOSING DOWN. IF THERE WERE MORE MEN LIKE BELISLE--THE WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE.
WHAT'S ON YOUR AGENDA THIS EVENING?
I'M JOINING AVENGELYNE FOR AN EARLY DINNER
I SEE
PETER, STOP FOR A MOMENT
PETER, I WAS A YOUNG MAN ONCE, LIKE YOURSELF. THOSE OF US WHO STRUGGLE TO ATTAIN UNITY WITH THE LORD AND LIVE BY HIS TEACHINGS MUST BEAR THE WEIGHT OF HIS DEMANDS. I KNOW IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY.
IF YOU EVER FEEL ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE PATH YOU'VE TAKEN--DON'T BE AFRAID TO TALK TO ME. I'M HERE FOR YOU AS WELL
THAT MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME, FATHER--THANK YOU.
BUT I'M FINE, SIR. REALLY I AM.
VERY WELL. THEN I'LL SEE YOU AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY TOMORROW.


A SHORT TIME LATER...
HUNGRY?
YES, I HAVEN'T EATEN YET
GOOD, THERE'S A PLACE I LIKE NOT FAR FROM HERE. BY THE WAY--WHERE DID YOU GET THAT DRESS?
IN THE BASEMENT SISTER JANICE WANTED ME TO PICK SOMETHING ELSE, BUT I JUST COULDN'T.
SHE TELLS ME IT'S MADE OF VELVET--I'VE NEVER FELT ANYTHING SO SOFT.
YEAH, WELL--IT'S, UH...
...VERY NICE.
PERFECT SO THE BITCH HAS FOUND HERSELF A MAN--AND A PRIEST NO LESS. POOR DEAR--FOREVER "DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL"
WELL, WARHOST, I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL NIGHT--
--FOR YOU AND YOUR DARLING PRIEST
HA, HA, HA


LATER
I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE
--IF I SEEM A BIT PREOCCUPIED IT'S BECAUSE MY DAD'S IN TOWN TONIGHT, AND WELL--WE HAD A BIT OF A DISAGREEMENT SOME TIME AGO--WE'RE SORT OF AVOIDING EACH OTHER
SO, YOU SEE--WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON
MY FATHER IS ONE OF THE THINGS I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT, PETER BUT FIRST TELL ME ABOUT MR BELISLE?
BELISLE?!
WELL, I JUST KNOW WHAT I'VE READ ABOUT HIM
..HE'S ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN THE WORLD HE'S VERY INFLUENTIAL IN THE MEDIA--HE OWNS BNN, THE WORLD'S LARGEST INDEPENDENT NEWS NETWORK
AND HE'S BEEN VERY GENEROUS WITH HIS WEALTH--HE'S PROBABLY THE LAST TRUE PHILAN-THROPIST.
BUT WHY DOES HE WANT THE CHURCH?
HE KNOWS ST AUGUSTINE IS IN TROUBLE HE FINDS CHURCHES THAT ARE EXPERIENCING HARD TIMES AND THEN HE BUYS THEM HE OWNS ABOUT A HALF DOZEN--ALL OVER NEW YORK
BUT WHY ALL THE INTEREST IN MR BELISLE?
PETER
. I KNOW WE HAVEN'T KNOWN EACH OTHER THAT LONG, BUT I TRUST YOU AND I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT YOU OR FATHER MALORY
AVENGELYNE, WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
IT'S BELISLE, PETER YOU CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO BUY ST AUGUSTINE HE'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK HE IS-- HE'S A DE--

WAIT, PETER-- THEY'RE HERE.
WHO'S HERE?
OVER THERE, SEE HIM--?!
SEE WHO--?!
I DON'T SEE ANYONE. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO--I'M NOT.
THEY'RE ALL OVER THIS CITY, PETER. THEY'RE LIKE ME.
WE'VE ALL FALLEN FROM GRACE
BUT SOME HAVE ABANDONED ALL HOPE OF RETURNING TO OUR FATHER--THEY'VE SWORN ALLEGIANCE TO THE DRAGON.
THE DRAGON?! AVENGELYNE, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HE WANTS ME
YOU'LL BE SAFE IN HERE, PETER. WHATEVER HAPPENS, JUST STAY INSIDE

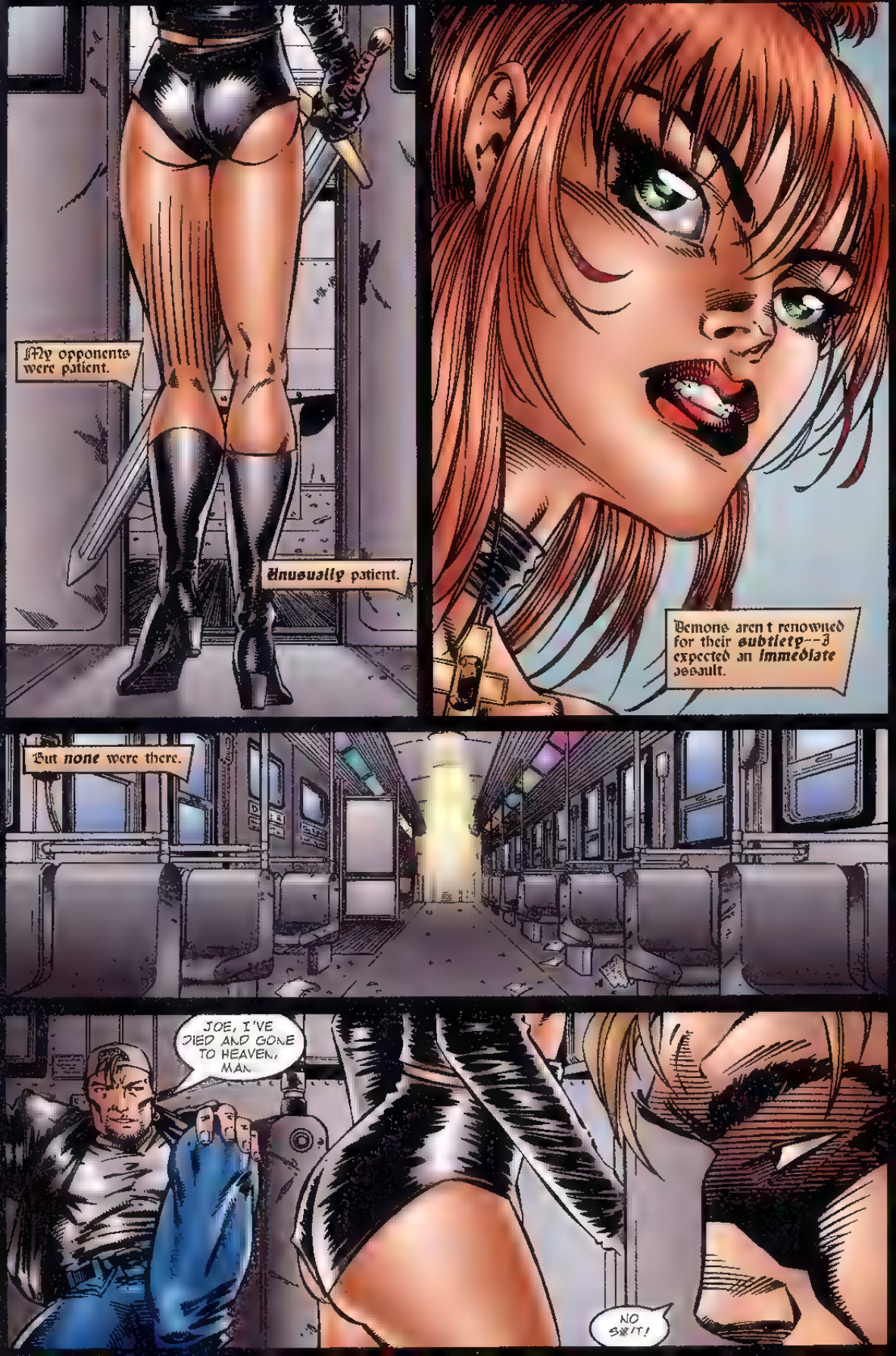
I KNOW YOU'RE OUT HERE --
--THERE'S NO POINT IN HIDING--
--I--LET'S JUST GET IT OVER WITH
HUH?
NO-NO, WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
PETER?
XOOR PRIEST IS MINE
PETER?!
A MESSAGE?
THE PATH: TRAIN: MIDNIGHT
OH, PETER... FORGIVE ME..

I walked for hours...
...trying to control the fear which gnawed at my stomach.
Part of me wanted to *run*--to leave this city and *never* return. But Peter's life was in danger because of *me*.
I thought about seeking Father Malory's help--but he could do nothing against them.
Nobody could help me...
...nobody except...
...*Father*...
I-I KNOW I *FAILED* YOU...AND THAT'S WHY YOU SENT ME HERE..
...BUT PETER IS A *GOOD* MAN, FATHER. I *ALONE* DESERVE THIS PUNISHMENT HE DOES NOT
HE'S ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE IN THIS--THIS *HELL*--THAT'S GIVEN HIS LIFE TO YOU
...SO IF YOU C-CAN'T DO THIS FOR ME...THEN PERHAPS...YOU CAN DO IT FOR *HIM*
PLEASE, FATHER . HELP ME .
I M SO AFRA'D PLEASE
PLEASE ANSWER ME

FATHER!
FATHER... WHY D-DON'T YOU ANSWER?
I S-SUPPOSE THIS IS MY TRUE PUNISHMENT
TH-THAT YOUR ANSWER IS NO
VERY WELL... TH-THIS TIME, I WILL HEED YOUR WORDS... AND I-I WON'T FAIL YOU... OR PETER... BUT I MUST BE READY... I MUST HAVE A WEAPON--
--OF COURSE--
--THE BASEMENT.

They picked a worthy place for our showdown.
New York's very own *netherworld*.
The *subway*.
The air was thick and lifeless--every corner reeked of man's waste.
As I waited, I closed my eyes...to think of Peter's face.
Then I heard a faint sound...
...and saw it emerging from the distance.
It moved slowly at first, like a languid *serpent*.
A serpent cast in *iron*--
...screaming as it hastened toward me.
Its purpose was clear--
--to usher me to my final destination--
--hell's gate.
RRRRRRRRRR
RRRRRRRR

The time has finally come...
...the moment of my resurrection is at hand.
I'LL PROTECT YOU, PETER...
I PROMISE!


My opponents were patient.
Unusually patient.
Demons aren't renowned for their subtlety--I expected an immediate assault.
But none were there.
JOE, I'VE DIED AND GONE TO HEAVEN, MAN.
NO SHIT!

I suppose they had orders *not* to attack me. Belisle wanted *me* for himself--
--*alive* if possible.
HUH?!
PETER!
PETER-- ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
PETER!
A-AVENGELYNE? IS IT *REALLY* YOU?
YES, IT'S ME--ARE YOU HURT?
A-AVENGELYNE, TH-THE *THINGS* THEY D-DID TO ME-- *U-UNIMAGINABLE* THINGS.
OH, PETER... I'M SO SORRY

YOU SHOULD BE, BITCH!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!!
HOW COULD A WARHOST FALL PREY TO SUCH A SIMPLISTIC GAMBIT?
PERHAPS YOUR PASSION FOR THE PRIEST HAS MADE YOU FORGET YOUR TRAINING TELL ME, HAVE YOU SEDUCED HIM YET?
WHERE IS HE?!
I'VE COME TO TRADE MY LIFE FOR HIS!

NO NEED FOR THAT ANGEL!
I PLAN ON KILLING BOTH OF YOU!
WHERE'S YOUR FIERY SWORD--LEFT IT AT HOME?!
I WON'T NEED IT--
--TO DEFEAT YOU!
KRAK
WRONG, ANGEL--
--YOU THINK A MORTAL BODY CAN RIVAL PERFECTION?!

SLASH!
REMEMBER HOW IT USED TO BE? A DEMON WOULD RIVE YOUR FLESH AND YOU WOULDN'T EVEN FEEL IT
YOU CAN HAVE THAT AGAIN-- ALL THE POWERS YOU HAD AS AN ANGEL AND MORE.
JUST RENOUNCE YOUR DADDY AND ALL THE PAIN WILL GO AWAY
O ONE SHOT--
--HAVE TO MAKE IT COUNT!

ARRGHH!
AHH-- GOD DAMN YOU!
A HOLY SWORD V-VERY CLEVER. BUT U-UNFORTUN-ATELY--
YOU MISSED MY HEART!
RE MEMBER THIS, WARHOST--
--I GAVE YOU A CHANCE TO JOIN US!
--AS MY BRETHREN IN PANDEMONIUM RAPE YOU DAY AND NIGHT--
WHY, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME FRESH AIR--

"--ALLOW ME TO HELP!"
KRASH!
THIS IS WHERE YOU GET OFF, AVENGELYNE
I'M SORRY YOU WON'T BE HERE WHEN WE REMAKE THIS WORLD--AND USE ST. AUGUSTINE TO DO IT!
BUT I'M AFRAID--
--YOU'LL BE WRITHING IN THE FURNACE--
--BY THEN!
GOODBYE, ANGEL!
NO, H'LANA!
LORD B'LIALE!
YOU HAVE FAILED ME, H'LANA--YOU HAVE EXCEEDED YOUR CHARGE.
NO-- LET ME FINISH HER!

NO, MY LORD -- PLEASE--
--PLEASE!
UH G-GONE
SHE'S GONE
B-BUT WHERE'S PE--
AVENGELYNE!
P PETER?
YES, I WAS HERE--I TRIED TO WARN YOU, BUT I COULDN'T SPEAK.
IT W-WOULDN'T HAVE MATTERED. I C-COULDN'T SEE YOU -- NOT THE R-REAL YOU JUST HER FACADE
PETER, HE-P M-ME MOVE OVER TH-THERE

HOW COULD I HAVE NOT S-SEEN IT BEFORE?
SEEN WHAT?
SHOW M-ME WHERE ALL THE CHURCHES ARE-- THAT BELISLE OWNS
SECONDS LATER .
THAT'S THE LAST ONE
IT'S WHAT H'LANA SAID ABOUT THE CHURCH--I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.
I-IT'S A G-GATE. EACH OF THE CHURCHES-- INCLUDING ST. AUGUSTINE-- SITS ON ONE OF ITS POINTS. A-AND ONCE IT'S OPEN--
--IT CAN NEVER BE CLOSED
OH, MY LORD BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?!
O-ONLY ONE THING.
HELL UPON EARTH!
WILL B'LIALE'S EVIL PLAN WORK? FIND OUT IN 30 DAYS AS THE FIRST AVENGELYNE STORY ARC COMES TO A CLOSE!

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AVENGELYNE

The Story So Far:

Avengelyne is an angel who has been sent to earth as punishment for her sins. Once a member of God's army of light, Avengelyne must now deal with the consequences of being mortal as she explores the dangers of life as a human.

After arriving in New York City, Avengelyne was shocked to find that there were others like her- angels who had fallen from God's grace. But these angels had joined with the dark one and roamed the earth as powerful demons.

Fearing for her own life, Avengelyne sought refuge in the St. Augustine church and met a young Priest named Peter. Without knowing that she was truly an angel, Peter and Father Malory gave her shelter for the night.

The next day Avengelyne met Mr. Belisle, a philanthropist who was planning to buy the church. Unknown to anyone but Avengelyne, Belisle himself was a fallen angel who had embraced darkness in order to attain power. To test Avengelyne, Belisle commanded his demons to attack her. After successfully vanquishing them, Belisle returned Avengelyne to Peter's church.

Avengelyne, reluctant to reveal her heavenly origins, tried to warn her friends about the threat from Belisle. Before she could explain the situation, Belisle's evil assistant, H'lana, kidnapped Peter. Avengelyne and H'lana battled on a New York City subway while Peter's life hung in the balance. H'lana almost killed Avengelyne, but Belisle spared the angel...saving her for the final battle.

AVENGELYNE CREATED BY
ROB LIEFELD
CATHY CHRISTIAN

STORY
ROB LIEFELD
ROBERT NAPTON

SCRIPT
ROBERT NAPTON

PENCILER
JOHN STINSMAN

INKER
MARLO ALQUIZA

INK ASSISTS
ROBERT HEDDEN

COLORS
DAN SHADIAN

COLOR SEPARATIONS
EXTREME COLORS

LETTERING
KURT HATHAWAY

EDITOR
MATT HAWKINS

AVENGELYNE IS BASED ON THE LIKENESS OF CATHY CHRISTIAN!

PUBLISHER
ROB LIEFELD
BUSINESS MANAGER
CHERI LIEFELD
PROMOTIONS & MARKETING
PAUL SCOTT

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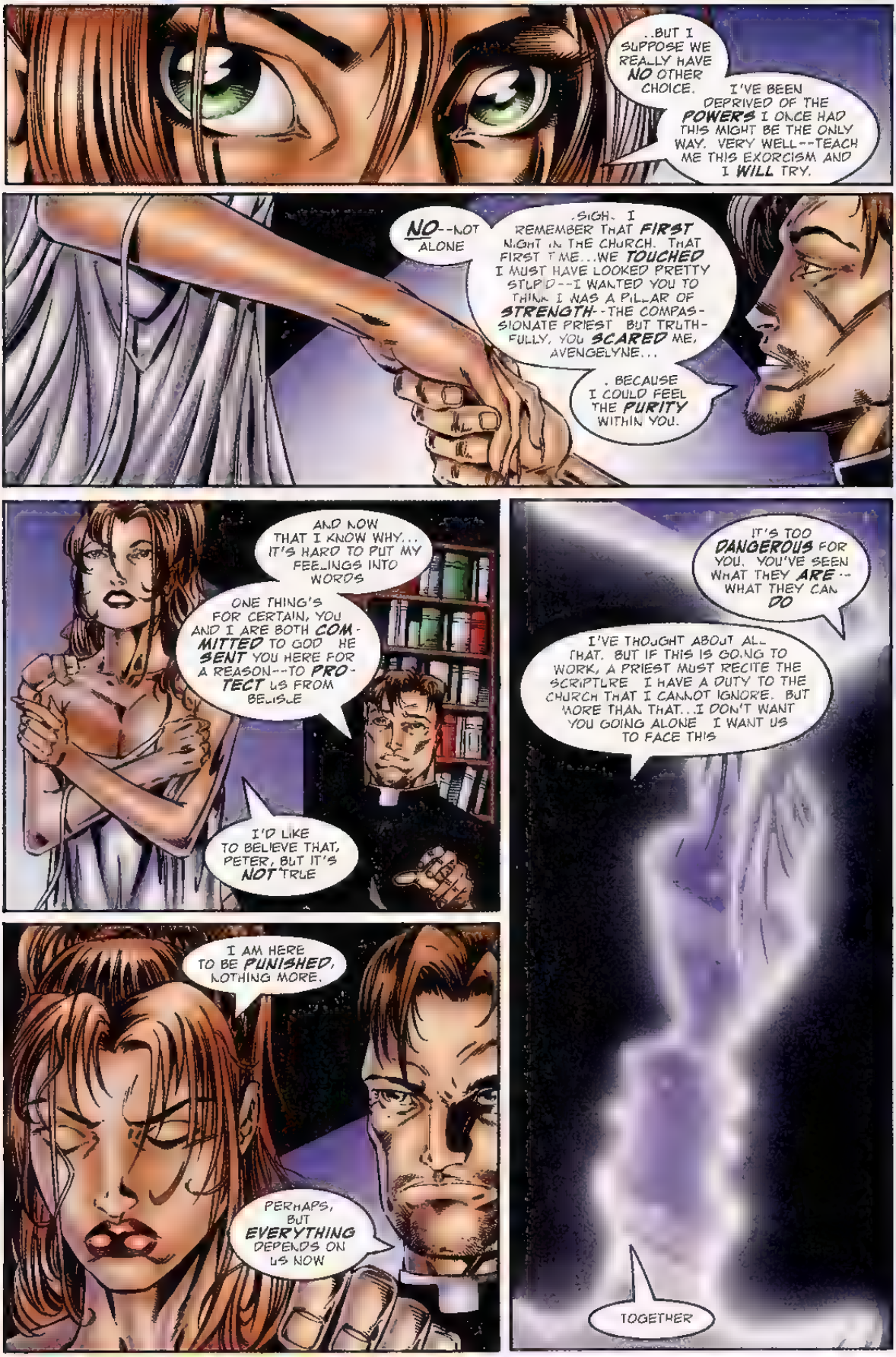
My Dream.
It visits me often...as a terrifying reminder of my previous existence. It always starts the same...
...with the image of myself locked in mortal combat...
...against the very demons I had been created to destroy.

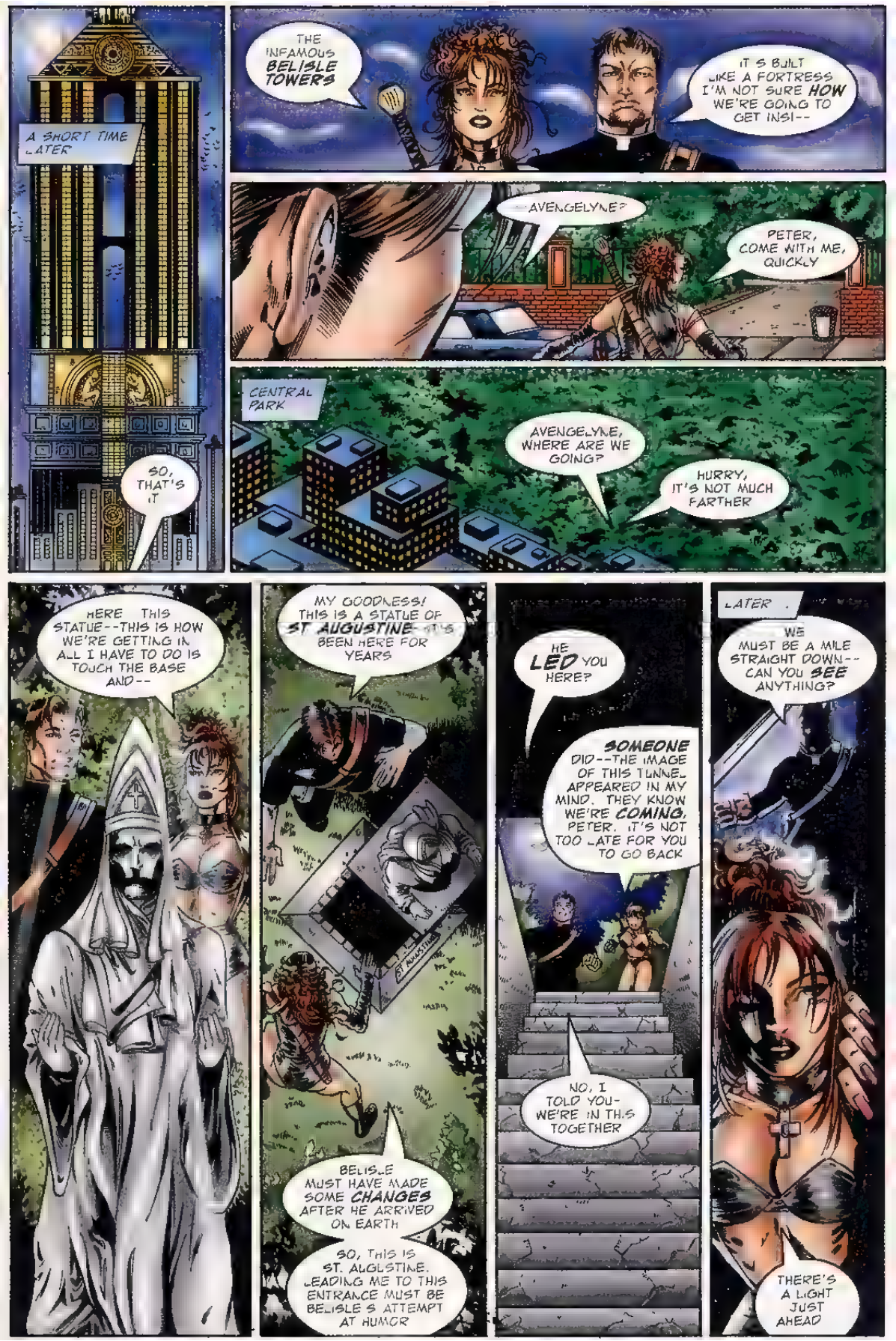
In the dream, I remember hating them for what they had become.
They had been angels of light. But they mortgaged their birthright...and bathed themselves in darkness.
Whether I liked it or not, I was charged with their destruction.
I paused...wondering if I had known any of them in heaven...
...had they been my companions, my friends--had we fought side by side in the bowels of hell?
I didn't wait to find out.
SHUKK!

But the night after I first battled Klana, a strange thing happened. The dream... sent me a warning.
I was alone amid the carnage of the battlefield...
...standing there, a curious dread overwhelmed me.
Though I had won the battle...I had lost the war.
Hell itself had risen to the surface of the earth...
...the planet was doomed to an eternity of damnation...
...and it was all my fault...

NO!
AVENGELYNE!
IT'S OKAY--WE'RE IN MY APARTMENT. I BROUGHT YOU HERE LAST NIGHT, REMEMBER?
I TH-THINK SO.
WHA-- WHAT IS THIS?
IT'LL HELP YOU GET BETTER MY BROTHER MICHAEL IS A DOCTOR--HE'S BEEN HERE TAKING CARE OF YOU FOR THE LAST 24 HOURS.
HE SAYS, UH...THAT YOU LOST SOME FLUID AND--WELL, YOUR RIBS ARE BRUISED. OTHERWISE...WE THINK YOU'RE OKAY.
P-PETER.. WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
I'M SORRY..IT'S JUST THAT...WELL, I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE--
--AN ANGEL?
YES. IF I HADN'T SEEN YOU FIGHTING THAT--THAT DEMON WITH MY OWN EYES ...I NEVER WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT.
BUT NOW THAT I KNOW.. THERE ARE SO MANY QUESTIONS I WANT TO ASK.
I UNDERSTAND, PETER. BUT THERE WILL BE TIME FOR THAT LATER.. IF WE'RE LUCKY. DID YOU CALL FATHER MALORY?
THIS MORNING. THE TRANSFER OF THE CHURCH TO BELISLE WAS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. IT WASN'T EASY, BUT I CONVINCED FATHER MALORY TO POSTPONE THE SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT.
HE TRUSTS ME, BUT HE'S DEMANDING AN EXPLANATION.
IT'S VERY SIMPLE REALLY, BUT HE JUST WON'T BELIEVE IT.
THERE IS AN ORDER TO THINGS, PETER...EVEN WHERE I COME FROM. DEMONS ARE EMPOWERED BY SOULS THAT ARE GIVEN TO THEM. IT'S THE SAME WITH ST AUGUSTINE-- IT MUST BE GIVEN TO BELISLE--HE CAN'T JUST TAKE IT.
AND ONCE HE'S CORRUPTED THE CHURCHES, THERE'S NO TURNING BACK. HE CAN OPEN THE GATEWAY AND RESHAPE THIS WORLD...

INTO A LIVING HELL. I'VE SEEN IT IN MY DREAMS, PETER. IT'S HORRIBLE.
WE MUST STOP HIM. WE MUST!
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT--ALL DAY, IN FACT. I HAVE AN IDEA...IT'S GONNA SOUND CRAZY, BUT JUST HEAR ME OUT
AVENGELYNE, I WANT TO PERFORM AN EXORCISM
EXORCISM.. WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S HOW WE EXPEL DEMONS FROM PEOPLE AND STRUCTURES
WHEN I WAS STUDYING IN EUROPE, I RESEARCHED ANCIENT EXORCISM RITES. I MET A PRIEST ONCE WHO TOLD ME AN OLD MYTH--ABOUT AN EXORCISM THAT DROVE A POWERFUL DEMON BACK INTO HELL.
WITH YOUR HELP, I THINK WE CAN USE THIS AGAINST BELISLE
FORGIVE ME, PETER, BUT I DON'T SEE HOW A HUMAN RITUAL CAN STOP A DEMON LORD OF HIS POWER
IT CAN WORK BECAUSE THIS RITUAL IS POWERED BY THE DIVINE
WE MUST PAINT A CROSS NEAR THE DEMON. THEN WHEN A SPECIFIC VERSE OF SCRIPTURE IS READ, THE CROSS...IT COMES ALIVE AND SENDS THE DEMON BACK TO HIS WORLD. BUT THERE'S JUST ONE CATCH.
...THE CROSS MUST BE PAINTED...WITH THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST.
WHAT?!
THEN, HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO-
ACCORDING TO THE MYTH, CHRIST'S BLOOD WAS SAVED THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES AND USED FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE BLOOD IS POWERFUL BECAUSE HE IS THE SON OF GOD--
--AND YOU ARE HIS DAUGHTER. YOUR BLOOD SHOULD ALSO WORK. MICHAEL'S IN THE OTHER ROOM--HE CAN EXTRACT IT FOR US
PETER, I MAY HAVE BEEN AN ANGEL, BUT I'M NOT A SAVIOR


..BUT I SUPPOSE WE REALLY HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.
I'VE BEEN DEPRIVED OF THE POWERS I ONCE HAD THIS MIGHT BE THE ONLY WAY. VERY WELL--TEACH ME THIS EXORCISM AND I WILL TRY.
NO--NOT ALONE
.SIGH. I REMEMBER THAT FIRST NIGHT IN THE CHURCH. THAT FIRST TIME...WE TOUCHED I MUST HAVE LOOKED PRETTY STUPID--I WANTED YOU TO THINK I WAS A PILLAR OF STRENGTH--THE COMPASSIONATE PRIEST BUT TRUTHFULLY, YOU SCARED ME, AVENGELYNE...
. BECAUSE I COULD FEEL THE PURITY WITHIN YOU.
AND NOW THAT I KNOW WHY... IT'S HARD TO PUT MY FEELINGS INTO WORDS
ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN, YOU AND I ARE BOTH COMMITTED TO GOD HE SENT YOU HERE FOR A REASON--TO PROTECT US FROM BELIAL
I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT, PETER, BUT IT'S NOT TRUE
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU. YOU'VE SEEN WHAT THEY ARE -- WHAT THEY CAN DO
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT ALL THAT. BUT IF THIS IS GOING TO WORK, A PRIEST MUST RECITE THE SCRIPTURE I HAVE A DUTY TO THE CHURCH THAT I CANNOT IGNORE. BUT MORE THAN THAT...I DON'T WANT YOU GOING ALONE I WANT US TO FACE THIS
I AM HERE TO BE PUNISHED, NOTHING MORE.
PERHAPS, BUT EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON US NOW
TOGETHER


A SHORT TIME LATER
SO, THAT'S IT
THE INFAMOUS BELISLE TOWERS
IT'S BUILT LIKE A FORTRESS I'M NOT SURE HOW WE'RE GOING TO GET IN!--
AVENGELYNE?
PETER, COME WITH ME, QUICKLY
CENTRAL PARK
AVENGELYNE, WHERE ARE WE GOING?
HURRY, IT'S NOT MUCH FARTHER
HERE THIS STATUE--THIS IS HOW WE'RE GETTING IN ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TOUCH THE BASE AND--
MY GOODNESS! THIS IS A STATUE OF ST AUGUSTINE IT'S BEEN HERE FOR YEARS
ST AUGUSTINE
BELISLE MUST HAVE MADE SOME CHANGES AFTER HE ARRIVED ON EARTH
SO, THIS IS ST. AUGUSTINE. LEADING ME TO THIS ENTRANCE MUST BE BELISLE'S ATTEMPT AT HUMOR
HE LED YOU HERE?
SOMEONE DID--THE IMAGE OF THIS TUNNEL APPEARED IN MY MIND. THEY KNOW WE'RE COMING, PETER. IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU TO GO BACK
NO, I TOLD YOU- WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER
LATER .
WE MUST BE A MILE STRAIGHT DOWN-- CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING?
THERE'S A LIGHT JUST AHEAD

WE'VE FOUND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR
PROTECT US, FATHER
IN HELL, THE DRAGON AND HIS DEMONS RESIDE IN A GREAT CITADEL CALLED PANDEMONIUM. IT'S A LOT LIKE THIS, ONLY WORSE.
BUT WHERE ARE THEY? WHY WERE WE ALLOWED IN HERE?
IT'S A TRAP.
BUT IF WE'RE LUCKY, BELISLE WAS DELAYED WHEN HE WENT TO ST. AUGUSTINE TO CONCLUDE HIS BUSINESS WE MIGHT HAVE A LITTLE TIME
IT'S INCREDIBLE. HIDDEN UNDER THE CITY ALL THIS TIME
YES. THE THRONE ROOM OF A DEMON LORD IS HIS SANCTUM NOTHING CAN DISTURB ITS SEALS
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT
DID YOUR BROTHER REMOVE ENOUGH BLOOD?
ANY MORE THAN THIS AND YOU'D BE TOO WEAK TO BE HERE. IF THIS WORKS, YOUR BLOOD SHOULD EMPOWER THE CROSS. AND IF IT DOESN'T WORK...WELL, IT'S--
HA HA HA-- HELLO, AVENGELYNE
THAT VOICE?!

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR OLD FRIEND GABRIEL?! WE SERVED TOGETHER IN THE WARHOST!
GABRIEL, NO! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO YOURSELF-- YOU--YOU USED TO BE AN ANGEL--
UNTIL OUR FATHER BANISHED ME FROM HEAVEN! I TRIED TO LIVE AS A MORTAL, AVENGELYNE, BUT I COULDN'T STAND THE WEAKNESS!
PETER, DON'T STOP WORKING!
YOU'RE A FOOL, AVENGELYNE! B'LIALE OFFERED YOU PERFECTION--A CHANCE TO BECOME IMMORTAL AGAIN--AND YOU SPIT IN HIS FACE!
GABRIEL, WE SERVED TOGETHER-- D-DON'T MAKE ME--
MAKE YOU WHAT?! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING YOU'RE GOING TO DO, MORTAL--
--AND THAT'S DIE!
NO-- PETER, HELP MEEeeeeee!

AVENGELYNE?!
AVENGELYNE?!
HEH HEH HEH...
HEH HEH HEH...
HA HA HA HA
UHHH-- C-CAN'T HOLD ON...
IT'S OVER, AVENGELYNE. BUT JUST THINK, MAYBE DADDY WILL TAKE YOU BACK!
N-NOT OVER ..I'M SORRY, GABRIEL.
FWIP!
THUKK
I'M TRULY SORRY...
AAAHHH

SOMETIME LATER..
WHAT NO.
PETER. ?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! PETER!!
HAHAHA!
H'LANA!
POOR LITTLE WARHOST--JUST CAN'T TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR PRIEST, CAN YOU?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO TO THE VATICAN AND SEDUCE ANOTHER ONE--
--SWEET PETER'S BROKEN. I SUPPOSE I'M JUST TOO ROUGH WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S TOYS!
NO! NO!

I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU SUFFER FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE TO HIM!
YOU'RE NOT VERY FORGIVING FOR AN ANGEL--
PERHAPS WE'RE MORE ALIKE THAN YOU REALIZE!
WAK!
I'M NOTHING LIKE YOU! YOU'RE AN ABOMINATION! I'LL DESTROY YOU IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!
CHOKK!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, ANGEL--IT'S MORE FUN IF YOU DIE KICKING AND SCREAMING!
UGH!
THUK

THIS TORCH IS DECORATED WITH THE SKULL OF THE LAST ANGEL WHO DEFIED OUR WILL!
I KEEP IT CLOSE BY FOR JUST SUCH AN OCCASION!
I'VE ENJOYED OUR LITTLE TRYSTS, WARHOST, BUT NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN THE BROTHELS OF HELL!
ENJOY DAMNATION, BITCH--
SKLOKR!
YOU FORGOT SOMETHING, DEMON--
--THE LORD'S ON MY SIDE.
PETER?!

ELSEWHERE IN THE SANCTUM...
DID YOU SIGN THE CONTRACT WITH ST AUGUSTINE?
NO, BUT MALORY ASSURES ME THAT THE DELAY IS ONLY TEMPORARY. WE ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN TOMORROW AND CONCLUDE THE ARRANGEMENTS.
HE'S LYING. AVENGELYNE MUST HAVE WARNED HIM ABOUT US. I'M SURPRISED HE WOULD EVEN LISTEN TO HER.
SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED THE MOMENT SHE ARRIVED!
MIND YOUR TONGUE, ADVISOR. AVENGELYNE WAS WORTH MORE TO ME ALIVE THAN DEAD SHE'S BECOME A MINOR NUISANCE--NOTHING MORE.
AND YOU'LL BE PLEASED TO KNOW I'VE GRANTED H'LANA HER WISH.
BY NOW. .
...THE WARHOST AND HER PET PRIEST...
...HAVE BEEN EXCOMMUNI-CATED.
NOTHING WILL PREVENT ME FROM OPENING THE GATEWAY--HELL ITSELF SHALL RISE TO THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH. THEN--FINALLY--MY FATHER IN HEAVEN AND MY MASTER IN HELL WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO REGARD ME AS AN EQUAL.
I AM B'LIALE--LORD OF EARTH!

H'LANA? WHERE ARE YOU? I HAVE NO PATIENCE TONIGHT FOR THESE GAMES.
COME FORTH, BELOVED, AND GREET YOUR LORD.
THAT SWORD...
...WAS DROPPED IN HASTE.
PERHAPS MY BELOVED H'LANA EXECUTED AVENGELYNE AND IS POLISHING THE ANGEL'S SKULL IN HER TROPHY ROOM.
SOMETIMES HER EGO RIVALS MY OWN.
EH?
SO, YOU'VE RETURNED AT LAST.
SPEAK. WAS IT ENJOYABLE? DID THE LOVELY WARHOST BEG FOR MERCY AS YOU SLIT HER THROAT?
H'LANA? WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
H'LANA?!
THUNK
MY POOR DEAR, H'LANA. YOU SERVED ME WELL AS CONSORT AND PROTECTOR.
YOU SHALL BE REMEMBERED WITH HONOR.

DON'T GRIEVE TOO MUCH, LORD B'LIALE
YOU'LL BE JOINING HER SOON ENOUGH.
HA HA HA.
AVENGELYNE... YOU'RE SO VERY SEDUCTIVE. STRENGTH AND DIVINITY--ENCASED IN FLESH AND BLOOD. I KNEW FROM THE MOMENT I SAW YOU IN THE GARDEN AT ST. AUGUSTINE THAT YOU WOULD BE MINE.
YOU WERE DESTINED TO TAKE H'LANA'S PLACE.
NEVER, B'LALE!
YOU PLAYED THE GAME WELL, AVENGELYNE--BUT THIS LAST GAMBIT--
--HAS BEEN ALL TOO PREDICTABLE.
NO
HELLO, PRIEST--WHAT WERE YOU DOING BACK THERE? CONCOCTING A PLAN TO DROWN ME IN A BASIN OF HOLY WATER?!
AVENGELYNE, YOU KNOW THERE IS NO POWER ON EARTH THAT CAN DESTROY OUR KIND.
ALL YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED BY BRINGING HIM HERE IS GIVING ME THE PERFECT WEAPON TO USE AGAINST YOU!
NOW...
RENOUNCE OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, AND I'LL SPARE HIS LIFE.
V-VERY WELL...BUT YOU MUST LET HIM GO FIRST

THERE, YOU SEE-- I HAVE FULFILLED MY END OF OUR BARGAIN.
NOW FULFILL YOURS.
KNEEL BEFORE ME.
RENOUNCE GOD.
I WILL RETURN THE PRIEST TO HIS WORLD UNHARMED...
...HE IS OF NO GREAT CONSEQUENCE TO ME. THEN, TONIGHT, YOU AND I SHALL CONSUMMATE OUR UNION.
I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING YOU AS MY NEW CONSORT. K'LANA HAD BECOME...BORING. BUT YOU...I HAVE SOME PLEASURABLE THINGS IN STORE FOR YOU... BELOVED.
IT'S WORKING. HE DIDN'T NOTICE THE BLOOD CROSS UNDER THE SWORD. BUT THE SCRIPTURE MUST WAIT FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT.
SAY IT!
TELL ME THAT YOU DESPISE OUR FATHER AND ALL HE STANDS FOR!
"THERE MET JESUS TWO POSSESSED WITH DEVILS, COMING OUT OF THE TOMBS, SO THAT NO MAN MIGHT PASS BY THAT WAY."
SAY IT, SO I MAY HAVE YOU!

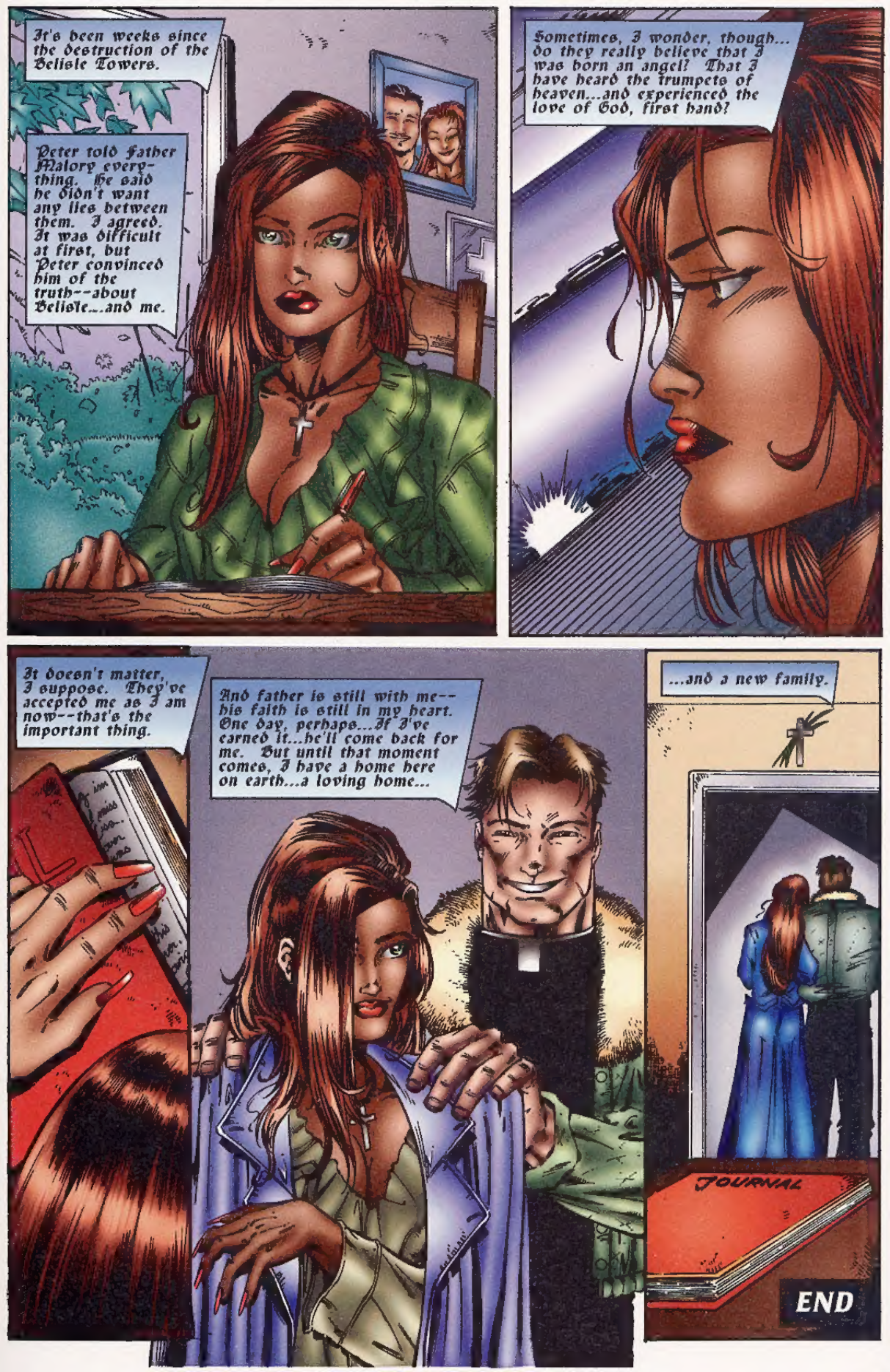
"THE DEVILS CRIED OUT SAYING WHAT HAVE WE TO DO WITH THEE THOU SON OF GOD? AND JESUS SAID UNTO THEM
"GO!"
AVENGE-LYNE, NOW!
WHAT?!
YOU'RE THE PREDICTABLE ONE, B'LIALE--
--THIS IS OUR TRAP NOW, NOT YOURS!
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE! YOU THINK A MERE SWORD CAN STOP LORD B'LIALE?!
NOT JUST A SWORD. .

I'M SENDING YOU TO HELL, AVENGELYNE-- AND THERE YOU SHALL SUFFER LIKE NO BEING HAS SUFFERED BEFORE!
HOW HAVE YOU SUMMONED THIS POWER? H'LANA WAS RIGHT--I SHOULD HAVE DESTROYED YOU IMMEDIATELY!
HURRY, AVENGELYNE-- THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME!
DEMONS OF HELL, COME FORTH. I SUMMON ALL THE POWERS OF DARKNESS TO DEVOUR THIS LIGHT!
IT'S TOO LATE, B'LIALE! THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU FORGOT--

--THE BEST WAY TO SLAY A DEMON--IS TO PIERCE HIS HEART WITH A HOLY SWORD!
NO!

NO NO!!
PETER! RUN!
VOOSH!
IT WORKED-- IT'S TAKING HIM AWAY!
HIM AND THIS ENTIRE PLACE!
KZAK!
LOOK! THE BUILDING--
--IT'S VANISHING!
...IT'S GONE...
...WE'VE WON!

OH, PETER, WE DID IT! THE CHURCHES ARE FREE OF HIM! WE'RE ALL FREE OF HIM!
I TOLD YOU WE COULD DO IT...WITH GOD'S HELP. WE JUST NEEDED...
...A LITTLE FAITH.
I KNOW... BUT...
...I'M STILL HERE, I HOPED FATHER WOULD COME FOR ME.
HE WILL SOMEDAY...
...BUT UNTIL THEN...
...YOUR HOME IS WITH US.


It's been weeks since the destruction of the Belisle Towers.
Peter told Father Malory everything. He said he didn't want any lies between them. I agreed. It was difficult at first, but Peter convinced him of the truth--about Belisle...and me.
Sometimes, I wonder, though... do they really believe that I was born an angel? That I have heard the trumpets of heaven...and experienced the love of God, first hand?
It doesn't matter, I suppose. They've accepted me as I am now--that's the important thing.
And father is still with me--his faith is still in my heart. One day, perhaps...if I've earned it...he'll come back for me. But until that moment comes, I have a home here on earth...a loving home...
...and a new family.
JOURNAL
END